

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Four more teams
claim spots in
NCAA tourney**

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Gonzaga players celebrate winning the WCC title

**Expanded USO
lounge coming
soon at Ramstein**

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Yeadley
officially
voice of
Lisa
Simpson

**'Simpsons' actor
finds she can
handle 'More'**

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Volume 63, No. 324 © SS 2005 G

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

50¢

Patriot missile crews head to Israel for joint exercises

Air defense training unrelated to Middle East conflict, V Corps says

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RICK EMMETT/Stars and Stripes

Combating stress of coming home

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Spc. Marek Polec, right foreground, and Spc. Kelly Licon, right background, both from 82nd Engineer Battalion, get personnel assistance from Spc. Yohaira Miranda, left foreground, and Sgt. Wilmer Espinoza, left background, both from 38th Personnel Service Battalion, on Monday in Bamberg, Germany. Polec and Licon were going through reintegration training, a seven-day program that helps 1st Infantry Division soldiers returning from Iraq get their paperwork in order and ease back into life at home. Troops can go on leave after completing the program.

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Paintball becomes
fast and furious

Scene on Sunday

Vin Diesel stars
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TODAY IN STRIPES

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Immigrant smuggling trial: Survivors of the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt have said they pounded and screamed as they tried to let Tyrone Williams know they were dying inside his sweltering tractor-trailer. Williams didn't let them out for four more hours as he transported them from South Texas in May 2003, prosecutors said. By then, 17 of the more than 70 illegal immigrants inside had died from dehydration, hypothermia and suffocation. Opening arguments were set for Tuesday in Williams' much-delayed trial.

Firebomb arrests: A man and two sisters were arrested in an attempted arson allegedly linked to an eco-terror group that targeted residential and commercial construction sites in California, authorities said Monday.

The Christmas Day incident was the first of three attempted or successful attacks on buildings under construction in towns east of Sacramento.

Arrested Monday was Jeremiah Colcazure, 24, while Eva R. Holland, 25, and Lili M. Holland, 20, were arrested Friday. All live in Newcastle. The three face conspiracy to commit arson, which carries a minimum 10-year and maximum 40-year sentence.

Beauty queen shootings: A jury was chosen Monday for the murder trial of a Savannah, Ga., beauty queen who fatally shot her two-timing boyfriend outside the other woman's house.

Sharon N. Redmond, 23, faces life in prison if convicted in the slaying of Kevin Shorter during a confrontation four months after Redmond was crowned Miss Savannah.

She has admitted firing the shot that killed Shorter. Opening statements were set for Tuesday.



Redmond

Staten Island ferry crash: Minutes after the ferry Andrew J. Barberi slammed into a Staten Island pier, assistant captain Richard Smith took the blame, allegedly telling ferry supervisor Patrick Ryan, "I blacked out. It's all my fault. I killed all these people."

In the 17 months since the ship-shredding disaster claimed 11 lives, the National Transportation Safety Board has shifted its focus from Smith's conduct that day to Ryan's supposedly slack grip on the ferry operations.

The NTSB was set to issue its final report on the crash Tuesday, including recommendations for changes in ferry operations.

World

Philippines murder convictions: The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday threw out a petition by soldiers requesting a new trial over their convictions in the 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

The 15 soldiers each are serving two life terms for the murder of Aquino, who was killed while in the custody of soldiers on Aug. 21, 1983, moments after he stepped off a plane bringing him home from exile in the



Toxic railroad leak: Used hazardous material safety gear and suits lie near an emptied rail tanker after it was pumped free of toxic waste Monday in Salt Lake City. The railroad tank car that leaked toxic fumes, forcing some 6,000 people from their homes, was not designed to hold the mixture of highly corrosive acids with which it had been filled, the car's owner said Monday. Louie Connelos, spokesman for Kennecott Utah Copper, said the car was supposed to be used only for hauling sulfuric acid.

United States

The soldiers said a new witness and forensic evidence would clear them. However, the Supreme Court said the new witness merely corroborated the testimony of the defense witnesses during the trial.

Munch art recovered: Police in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday were holding eight people on suspicion of theft after recovering three stolen works of art by Norwegian master Edvard Munch, including a unique watercolor titled "Blue Dress," officials said.

The artworks, valued at some \$257,000, were found less than 24 hours after thieves pried them loose Sunday night from the walls of a restaurant at the upscale Hotel Refsholm, near the southern town of Moss, police said.

Officers received a tip that people were seen carrying paintings into an Oslo house.

Asian bird flu: The World Health Organization says seven Vietnamese patients who initially tested negative for bird flu have been found to be carrying the virus after their samples were retested — suggesting that avian influenza may be more widespread than originally believed.

All seven, who were first tested in January, have since recovered, WHO regional spokesman Peter Cordingley said Tuesday.

"There's no doubt. The WHO accepts that we are missing cases. It's quite possible that some people are falling sick and their symptoms are very light and they don't end up in hospital," he said.

Madrid train bombings: Spanish police arrested a Moroccan on Tuesday described as a close collaborator of key figures in the Madrid train bombings, officials said.

The Interior Ministry identified him as 21-year-old Jaouad el Bouzrouf and said he was arrested near his home in Fuenlabrada, a Madrid suburb.

In a related story, an association representing victims of the bombings urged Spaniards on Tuesday to let them mourn quietly on the massacre's anniversary.

"We feel everybody is watching us. We can't cope with the lack of privacy to cry over our loved ones," said Pilar Manjon, president of the Association of Victims of March 11.

British tsunami victim: Officials in Thailand have formally identified the body of British fashion photographer Simon Atlee, who was killed by the Asian tsunami while vacationing with his girlfriend, Czech supermodel Petra Nemcova, an official said Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office confirmed that the body of Atlee, 33, had been found and was identified on March 3. She said his family were aware and British officials were working on having the body repatriated.

Japan mad cow precautions: Anyone who visited Britain or France for a day or more between 1980 and 1996 will be banned from donating blood in Japan, an official said Tuesday, as the government tightens restrictions on blood supplies because of worries over the human form of mad cow disease.

The rule would bar hundreds of thousands of people from donating blood and may severely diminish blood supplies, media reports warned.

Mexico police trial: A Mexico City judge Monday ordered 19 federal, state and local police officers to stand trial in connection with the slayings of five people who were shot in the head and dumped outside the resort city of Cancun last November.

The group includes federal agents and state police officials assigned to the Cancun area, as well as municipal police employed directly by the resort's city government, according to a statement released by the federal attorney general's office.

They will face charges of "taking advantage of their position as public servants to tolerate and allow third parties to smuggle drugs," as well as transporting and dealing drugs themselves, corruption and organized crime.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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U.S. Patriot missile crews heading to Israel

Hundreds of Germany-based troops expected to participate in Juniper Cobra exercise

By STEVE MRAZ

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Patriot missile crews stationed in Germany are once again headed to Israel to participate in a joint exercise with the Israeli military.

The exercise, called Juniper Cobra, is set to begin Thursday and continue until mid-April. Its purpose is to develop and improve air defense cooperation between the two nations, said Connie Summers, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army's V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany.

Roughly 1,000 U.S. troops will participate in the computer-assisted and limited live-fire exercise, with Army soldiers making up the majority of the group.

Of the total U.S. force, about 500 soldiers with the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade based at Giebelstadt Army Airfield in Germany and the brigade's two Patriot battalions will take part in the exercise. The brigade's Patriot battalions are the 5th Bat-

talion, 7th ADA in Hanau, and the 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA headquartered in Ainsbach.

The remaining U.S. force, both active-duty and reserve, is composed of Navy

and various communication and logistics support elements from the States and Europe, Summers said.

While the timing of the exercise comes amid increasing tension in the Middle East, Army officials said Tuesday that the missile exercise had been planned for a year.

"There is absolutely no connection with this exercise and any event in the region," Summers said. "As always, we are interested in implementing lessons learned from training exercises."

The deployment of the crews and their missiles is partly a signal to others in the Middle East but largely a reassurance to the Israelis, said Michael Desch, a political science professor at The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

"The symbolic thing is this signals the American commitment to Israeli security," he said.

As recently as January 2003, Patriot missile crews

were deployed to Israel for the Juniper Cobra exercise. At that point, troops and materials were being deployed steadily to the Middle East in preparation for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Also, Juniper Cobra took place in February 2001, which coincided with an Israeli

prime minister election and continuing strife between Israelis and Palestinians.

In both instances, Army officials said the exercise had been planned a year in advance and was not prompted by the developing situations.

Patriot crews were sent to Israel in November 1998 for exercises. But shortly after arriving, the United States conducted Operation Desert Fox, which resulted in three days of strikes against Iraq sparked by tensions over U.N. weapons inspections.

The Patriot missile debuted in combat during the 1991 Persian Gulf War when Iraq fired Scud missiles toward Israel and Saudi Arabia. The high-speed missile was originally designed to strike down Israel but was modified to intercept unfriendly missiles.

Its success in the Gulf War made the missile a household name in America.

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Ed Edmonds, right, who manages the USO center at the Ramstein Air Base passenger terminal in Germany, talks with Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Robillard on Tuesday about the amenities the center offers.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance has donated \$350,000 to expand the USO Center at Ramstein.

SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

Airman sentenced

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — Senior Airman Jason D. Harper of the 48th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron will be confined for 15 months and given a bad-conduct discharge after admitting the use and distribution of controlled substances, according to the base public affairs office.

Harper, who was also reduced in rank to airman basic, entered guilty pleas to wrongful use of cocaine between March 1 and Aug. 1, 2004; wrongful use of Ecstasy between June 1, 2003, and July 31, 2004; and distribution of Ecstasy between March 1 and July 31, 2004.

All of the offenses took place at or near the base. The Ecstasy use also took place at or near Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., base officials said.

A military judge sentenced Harper during a general court-martial Thursday at the base.

Soldier bled to death

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — A 22-year-old Fort Drum soldier found dead in her apartment Christmas Day, along with her 11-day-old baby, died to death as the result of postnatal complications, according to an autopsy.

Spc. Tameka McFarquhar, a native Jamaican who immigrated to Brooklyn, died from loss of blood from placenta retained after the birth of her daughter, Danasia Elizabeth, the Jefferson County Medical Examiner ruled.

A report said the baby's death is not yet complete, but authorities believe McFarquhar died first and the infant likely died from hunger.

McFarquhar, a human resources specialist, age 24 and was discharged the next day. Friends and family told authorities they last saw and spoke with her Dec. 19.

Placenta increta occurs when the placenta attaches itself too deeply in the uterine wall and must be surgically removed. It occurs in about 1 in 2,500 pregnancies.

From staff and wire reports

Donation helps Ramstein USO upgrade

By SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Travelers going through Ramstein Air Base will soon be able to kick back in a new, VIP-style lounge planned for the United States Organizations Center this summer.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance has donated \$350,000 to expand the center at the base passenger terminal so it can better serve the influx of traveling troops in and out of the military hub.

The new center will be three times larger, include a 25-seat movie theater, cappuccino bar, a playground for children and a wireless Internet "hot spot" for Web surfers with laptops.

Wesley travelers will be able to relax on leather sofas and chairs or take a nap on a row of recliners with a window view of the flight line.

"It's going to give you the feel as if you're in a nice hotel lobby," said Walt Murren, director of the Kaiserslautern USO.

Or a VIP lounge.

It will have many of the amenities of a

first-class lounge found at any commercial airport — minus the full-beverage bar.

The bigger and better USO digs will go to good use, too.

Ramstein will become the sole military transportation hub for Europe once Rhein-Main Air Base closes in October, boosting the number of servicemembers who use the popular center and making it the busiest on the continent.

"It's going to give you the feel as if you're in a nice hotel lobby."

Walt Murren

Kaiserslautern USO director

About 32,000 servicemembers a year currently use the USO center in Ramstein, but that number is expected to skyrocket to 330,000.

The donation, the largest the center has ever received, will also help the USO add staff members to the terminal center, expand operating hours and build a welcome kiosk at the baggage claim area.

Ed Edmonds, who manages the center,

said the terminal needs more room to take care of the additional passengers. Edmonds, a retired Army sergeant, is one of five paid staff members who work at the center, which provides free beverages, Internet and area information to travelers.

"At times, this place is packed," he said. "You've got people in this room; bags everywhere."

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, based in Phoenix, has partnered with other USO centers in the past and provides health care to U.S. military members and their families in the 21-state Tri-care West Region.

"This center will provide America's dedicated servicemembers with a warm welcome, a comfortable place to rest, relax and contact family members, and receive the assistance they need as they await transport to their next destination," David J. McIntyre Jr., TriWest president and chief executive officer, said in a press release.

The center expansion project is scheduled to be finished in early June, Murren said.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at schonauer@mail.stripes.odm.mil

Reintegration eases soldiers' return home

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

BAMBERG, Germany — For 1st Infantry Division soldiers coming off of a year of combat in Iraq, returning home can be a shock to the system.

To help them adjust, soldiers go through a mandatory reintegration process consisting of seven half-days that cover everything from driving safety to medical screenings; all the things soldiers must take care of before going on leave, said Patricia Seaman, manager of the Inprocessing Training Center and Central Processing Facility who oversees the reintegration for soldiers on Warner Barracks.

The process begins with a day of required duties, such as registering vehicles and getting a meal card.

On Day 2, soldiers gather for briefings and videos on combat stress, winter driving safety and driving in Europe. The driving safety videos are required before soldiers can get their vehicles out of storage, Seaman said.

Day 3 is set aside for soldier and family discussions at the Family Life Center. There are three sessions: couples reunion, reunion with family and friends and communicating with children. While the first and third sessions are geared toward married soldiers, the middle session can be helpful to single soldiers.

"Single soldiers have reintegration issues, too," said Chap. (Maj.) Larry Pundt, Family Life chaplain for Warner Barracks. "There are combat stress issues as well as changes in relationships with girlfriends or with their pals. Sometimes it's like starting all over again."

A soldier who may have been [a single soldier's] best friend downrange where everybody is 'single,' now is back with his family. It can be difficult to adjust to that."

Day 4 is a catchall for everything from personnel and finances issues to medical and dental screenings, Seaman said.

On Day 5, soldiers visit the dental clinic



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Shawn Jones, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, left, gets help from Spc. Antagona Boatwright, 38th Personnel Service Battalion, to get a new identification card during reintegration training Monday in Bamberg, Germany. The seven-day reintegration program helps 1st Infantry Division soldiers returning from Iraq complete their paperwork and get their affairs back home in order before they go on block leave for one month.

for full exams and X-rays.

Day 6 is delivery of household goods for single soldiers living in the barracks or married soldiers whose families returned to the States during the deployment, Seaman said.

The final day, or "any day," is a make-up day for soldiers who missed part of the process. For those who have finished, it's a day of leisure at Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities with free bowling or computer time at the Community Activity Cen-

ter among other things, Seaman said.

"This is a deliberately slow process to help the soldiers get it done without being stressed," Seaman said. "They must be at their place of duty during the reintegration, but the schedule is half-days so they have time to spend with their families, too."

Apparently the system is working.

"I wouldn't change anything," said Staff Sgt. Norman Hunter, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, who returned from Iraq on

Saturday. "It takes seven days, but it gets us in the mind frame that we are not in Iraq anymore."

Although he didn't like the idea of the reintegration running over the weekend, Sgt. Eric Gyanfi, also from 1-6 Field Artillery, liked the idea of getting it done before going on leave.

"Then, you know that everything is taken care of and you don't have to worry about it," he said.

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Army officials worried about lowered recruiting standards

By TOM BOWMAN

The Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — Struggling to boost its ranks, the U.S. Army is recruiting a higher number of high school dropouts and recruits who score in the lowest category on military aptitude tests, raising concerns among senior officers and defense analysts that the quality of the force will suffer.

Five months into the recruiting year, the percentage of recruits in the active-duty Army without high school diplomas is more than double the percentage of last year. The number of recruits who scored the lowest on the aptitude test also has more than doubled from last year and is the highest since 2001.

While the Army has fallen short of its recruiting goals so far, senior commanders are less worried about making the numbers than they are about lowering standards, according to an officer who has seen briefings by Army recruiting generals.

Top officers at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Ft. Knox, Ky., were not available for interviews. A spokesman for the command, Douglas Smith, said that despite recruiting challenges, the Army would not exceed a self-im-

posed ceiling it has set for recruits who are below average.

The Army's goal by the end of the year is 80,000 recruits, although it missed its February recruiting goal by more than 27 percent. The Army signed up 5,114 in February, 1,936 short of the 7,050 needed.

It was the first time since May 2000 that the service missed a monthly goal, even though the Army is offering signing bonuses of as much as \$20,000 and is sending hundreds of additional recruiters to encourage young men and women to enlist.

David Segal, a military sociologist at the University of Maryland said that historical research shows that those recruits with at least a high school diploma have fewer disciplinary problems and are more likely to complete their tour of duty.

Moreover, the Army has recruited 667 soldiers this year deemed Category 4, those who scored less than 30 points on the military aptitude test. That is 1.8 percent of the recruits so far this year. Last year the Army accepted 440 soldiers from Category 4, or about 0.6 percent. The percentage of soldiers scoring in this lowest category is the highest since 2001.

Air Force technical sergeant sentenced in child porn case

By RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Tech Sgt. Dean Harmer, who said he first looked at child pornography "out of curiosity," was sentenced Tuesday to 11 months of confinement, given a bad-conduct discharge from the Air Force and reduced in rank to airman basic for downloading images of young children in sexually explicit poses.

Harmer, 34, pleaded guilty to one charge of wrongful possession of child pornography during a general court-martial heard by Maj. Adam Oler, the trial judge, at RAF Mildenhall.

A pretrial agreement asked for 370 days of confinement, but the lesser penalty given by Oler was accepted by all parties in the case.

In a stipulation of fact read by the court and agreed to by Harmer, the maintainer with the 352nd Maintenance Squadron admitted he subscribed to six Web sites that provide child pornography.

His computer "bookmarks" listed several Web sites, including "Little Angels" and "Pre-Teen Goddesses."

He was charged with viewing the material on his home computer on many occasions from March 1, 2002, to June 14, 2004, the date he was questioned about his habits by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The photographs included girls under the age of 16 and some under age 10.

Ryan Amedure, the lead investigator, said the computer's hard drive contained 22,000 pornographic images, but it was not known how many were of children.

Harmer's use of the for-pay Web sites was uncovered during a cooperative investigation by the FBI, U.S. Postal Service, Internal Revenue Service and other agencies.

In his closing argument, Capt. W. Crosby Parker, the prosecutor, asked for 14 months of confinement.

"The accused is an integral part of the child pornography industry," Parker said.

David Court, who, along with Capt. Tiwana Wright, defended Harmer, told the judge nothing would be accomplished by booting his client from the Air Force.

"His service over the last 16½ years must count for something," Court said.

During testimony, Harmer's friends and colleagues called him a loyal friend and a good Air Force member.

"I don't believe that this case should define Dean Harmer," said Chief Master Sgt. Joel Coppolino, who traveled from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to testify on behalf of the airman he worked with from May 1999 until December 2001.

In an unsworn statement before the court, Harmer apologized to everyone he had hurt by his actions. Since his arrest in June, he said, "I've done a lot of soul-searching."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: Jensenr@mail.strips.osd.mil

Program offers child care for all deployed troops

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — For the first time, a new Defense Department initiative gives all mobilized or deployed military parents access to government-subsidized, high-quality child care — including members of the reserve components, who until now have been excluded from DOD's on-base programs.

Operation Military Child Care is funded by the Defense Department and administered by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, or NACCRRRA, a Washington-based, non-profit network of more than 850 child-care resource and referral centers nationwide.

Participants will receive referrals to licensed community child care providers and get discounts of up to 25 percent.

The exact amount of the subsidy will be based on family income, as well as the average cost of child care in that area (see box).

Operation Military Child Care, which kicked off Thursday, is also available to the families of deployed active-duty members who are wait-listed for child care at their home base.

"But the goal is to reach out to people especially if they're not on a base, such as reservists and the National Guard," said NACCRRRA spokeswoman Katherine Chamberlain.

Reserve component members, in particular, often have prob-

lems finding and paying for child care during deployments, Chamberlain said in a Monday telephone interview.

Reserve family incomes may nose-dive when the spouse left at home requires more child care than usual, and sometimes a working spouse may even be forced to give up her job because child care is so expensive, "especially in big cities," Chamberlain said.

"In New York [City, if a spouse] is making \$30,000 per year, child care can be up to 50 percent of that salary," Chamberlain said.

"By setting up quality child care at a discounted rate," Operation Military Child Care can "significantly reduce" such burdens, she said.

To ensure the same standards as providers in DOD's on-post Child Development Centers, the

program will subsidize only licensed, legally operating community-based child care programs and providers, Chamberlain said.

Families can request a preferred state-accredited and licensed child-care provider or program, or NACCRRRA will provide a list of referrals. Military families who live near installations may also be referred to an on-post child-care program, if there is space available.

Operation Military Child Care officials are hoping to attract at least 6,000 participants, Chamberlain said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

"The goal is to reach out to people especially if they're not on a base, such as reservists and the National Guard"

Katherine Chamberlain
NACCRRRA spokeswoman

Getting help

Who is eligible?

Families and child guardians of reserve component servicemembers who are mobilized or deployed in support of the global war on terror, and geographically dispersed active-duty servicemembers or deployed servicemembers who are unable to access child care on their military installation.

How long will my family be eligible to participate in the program?

As long as you, as parent or guardian, are mobilized or deployed.

What do I need to provide to establish eligibility for the program?

Copies of orders, birth certificates, and the social security number of your children; the name and contact information for any preferred, licensed child care program or provider; proof of income (pay stub or tax return); and a signed copy of the application.

How long does the application process take?

NACCRRRA will process the application in one to five business days after receipt.

Where can I go for more information or an application?

Go to www.naccrrra.org or call the Child Care Aware hot line (800) 424-2246; or the Army One Source (800) 464-8107. For Army One Source outside the United States, dial the access code to reach a U.S. number, then (800) 464-8107. The number for hearing-impaired callers is (800) 364-9188. In Spanish, (888) 732-9920.

Source: National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies



Russ Rizzo/Stars and Stripes

Joe Russo, a third-grade teacher at Aviano Elementary School, coordinates an effort by the Aviano military community to collect plastic bottle caps to raise money for a local nonprofit organization that houses cancer patients and their families.

Aviano community helps raise funds for hospital cancer ward

BY RUSS RIZZO
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO Air Base — Every few months, Joe Russo backs his gray Ford Mondeo station wagon into a small garage just outside Aviano, Italy. He opens the back door and unloads trash bags filled with plastic bottle caps.

On Monday, the take was seven trash bags each filled with at least 50 pounds of caps mostly from water and soft drink bottles.

"Pretty amazing, huh?" Russo said as he stared at the black bags.

The caps are collected by students and teachers at Aviano Elementary School — where Russo teaches third grade — and other members of the Aviano military community. Russo takes the donations to a local nonprofit organization that houses cancer patients and their families, and the house recycles the caps for money.

The money earned helps buy equipment for the house, called Casa Via di Natale, which has 68 beds including 12 beds in an upstairs hospice for terminal patients. Located next to Aviano's cancer hospital, called Centro di Riferimento Oncologico, the house functions much like the Fisher House does next to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

The house began collecting bottle caps three years ago, when a woman from Cordoneone came up with the idea, said Carmen Gallini, director of Casa Via di Natale. As word spread around Aviano that recycled bottle caps could help the house, donations began flooding in, Gallini said. Russo caught wind of the program early on and encouraged others to participate.

After three years, the house has earned 30,000 euro, or about \$40,000, from donated bottle caps, Gallini said.

Gallini said it was difficult to know how much the Aviano military community has contributed to the overall total, because people throughout the region bring donations to the house's garage. But she said the contribution has been significant.

The U.S. military has helped the house in other ways, Gallini said, including digging the foundation for the house when it moved to a larger location in 1995.

Collection bins for bottle caps are sprinkled throughout Aviano Air Base at places such as the identification card office, the waiting room at the finance office and, naturally, the entrance to Aviano Elementary School.

One of Russo's pupils, 9-year-old Arlyn Lisondra, brought in 1,000 caps recently, filling one trash bag. Arlyn got to skip one homework assignment in return.

Brandon Adler, 9, said his dad, Eric, a Black Hawk helicopter pilot, keeps a bin at work.

"It's really been a community effort," Russo said. Gallini said the money raised by bottle cap donations is a small portion of the \$2.4 million Casa Via di Natale must raise each year to operate without the help of government funding.

But she is quick to offer one of her favorite phrases: "Tutte goccie fanno un fiume fino al mare."

It means, "Every drop creates a river that ends in the ocean."

For information about how to help, call Joe Russo at 632-5677 or e-mail him at joseph.russo@eu.dodea.edu.

E-mail Russ Rizzo at: rizzor@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Missing airman's body found

SAN ANGELO, Texas — Authorities have recovered the body of a missing Dyess Air Force Base armorer from a stock tank on a West Texas ranch, his stepister said.

Staff Sgt. Michael Leslie Severance's body was found in 10 to 20 feet of water in a tank 15 miles northeast of San Angelo, Nicole Leighton said Monday. His body had been weighted with cinderblocks,

and his death was ruled a homicide.

Severance, 24, had been missing since Jan. 15. He lived in San Angelo but was assigned to Dyess in Abilene, about 90 miles to the northeast.

Six divers searched about four hours before finding the badly decomposed body, officials said. The Tom Green County Sheriff's Office took the body to the Medical Examiner's Office in Lubbock for positive identification.

From The Associated Press

Coalition orders probe into Italian's death

Car's speed, possible warnings from U.S. soldiers at checkpoint have been questioned

By TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq ordered a follow-up investigation Tuesday into the fatal shooting of an Italian intelligence officer he accompanied a former hostage to Baghdad's airport last week.

Also, Bulgaria demanded a U.S. investigation after one of its 460 soldiers in Iraq was killed Friday in what appeared to be a friendly-fire incident.

Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari was killed Friday when U.S. troops at a checkpoint fired at the car carrying him and freed Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after Sgrena's release from a month in captivity.

Sgrena, a fierce opponent of the war and a frequent critic of U.S. policy who works for the communist newspaper *Il Manifesto*, was recovering Tuesday in a Rome hospital from a shrapnel wound to the shoulder.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi "expressed the satisfaction of the Italian government for this investigation," his office said.

The United States has said soldiers at a Baghdad checkpoint "attempted to warn the driver to stop by hand and arm signals,

flashing white lights, and firing warning shots in front of the car."

"When the driver didn't stop, the soldiers shot into the engine block which stopped the vehicle, killing one and wounding two others," it said.

But Italian Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini told his

parliament Tuesday in Rome that the car was not speeding and was not ordered to stop by U.S. troops at a checkpoint.

However, he also dismissed allegations that the shooting on Friday that killed Calipari was an ambush — a claim made by Sgrena. "It was an accident," Fini told lawmakers.

"This does not prevent, in fact it makes it a duty for the government to demand that light be shed on the murky issues," he said. "This does not prevent, in fact it makes it a duty for the government to demand that light be shed on the murky issues, that responsibilities be pinpointed, and, where found, that the culprits be punished."

The White House has described the shooting as a "horrific accident" and promised a full investigation.

On Tuesday, the Multi-National Force-Iraq said a team led by U.S. Brig. Gen. Peter Vangelj will carry out an investigation into the incident.

"The follow-on investigation to the Multi-National Division — Baghdad commander's initial inquiry into the incident is expected to take approximately three to four weeks to complete," the statement said. "The command is working closely with the U.S. Embassy and Italian officials have been invited to participate."

In addition to ordering investigations into Friday's fatal incidents involving Italian and Bulgarian allies in Iraq, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq has asked

for a review of any accidents involving U.S. checkpoints in Iraq going back to fall 2004.

"I have asked my subordinate commander to look at all checkpoint accounts from last six months, to see what we can draw from that," George W. Casey Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, told Pentagon reporters Tuesday.

"Obviously the timing [of the two incidents] gave me cause for discomfort," Casey said when asked for his reaction to the death by suspected friendly fire of a Bulgarian soldier, which happened almost at the same time as the Baghdad airport checkpoint incident.

"We've had two incidents in a short period of time," Casey said.

Therefore, "it's prudent" for U.S. officials to analyze checkpoint rules of engagement and procedures and modify them if necessary, to "make sure I don't have further problems in the future," he said.

Bulgaria's defense minister said the death would not lead to a troop withdrawal. The nation must decide this month whether to keep troops in Iraq past July.

Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess and AP reporter Alessandra Rizzo contributed to this report.

Gunman shoot Iraqi minister in Baghdad

By TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen assassinated the deputy chief of the Interior Ministry's immigration office, Gen. Ghazi Mohammed Issa in Baghdad on Tuesday, in a drive-by shooting that al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibility for in an Internet statement. The claim could not be verified.

Volley of automatic weapons-fire erupted in central Baghdad near a main hotel housing foreign journalists. It was not immediately known what sparked the violence.

Also on Tuesday U.S. troops and insurgents clashed in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. At least two Iraqis were killed and two others wounded, said Dr. Salah al-Ani of Ramadi's main hospital.

The clashes lasted for more than an hour. City shops were closed and streets were deserted as U.S. troops took up sniper positions on rooftops. At least one body was in the street, witnesses said.

U.S. troops launched a clampdown in Ramadi and several other Euphrates cities on Feb. 20, imposing curfews and raiding houses in a bid to root out insurgents operating in the area.

In the capital, unidentified gunmen also killed the deputy head of Hay Alfarat Hospital in western Baghdad, officials said.

The Interior Ministry official said gunmen also attacked a convoy of trucks carrying food for the Trade Ministry in Salman Pak, southeast of the capital. Three civilians were killed in the assault and at least one truck was burned.

Elsewhere, U.S. troops overnight killed two men they identified as terrorists who launched an attack in Ad Dujah, about 30 miles northwest of the capital. Six people were detained by U.S. forces.

Tuesday's violence came a day after insurgents killed 33 people and wounded dozens in a series of attacks.

The terror group Al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for much of Monday's bloodshed — including violence that killed 15 people in and around Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Amid the violence, negotiations to form Iraq's first democratically elected government have persisted. Iraqi Kurds said they were close to a deal with the Shiite clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance to secure many of their territorial demands and ensure the country's secular character after its National Assembly convenes March 16.

The dominant Shiite Muslim alliance, however, said although it agreed that Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani would become Iraq's president, it was still talking about other conditions set by the Kurds to gain their support in the 275-member legislative body.

The Shiite alliance controls 140 seats and need the 75 seats won by the Kurds in the Jan. 30 elections to muster the necessary two-thirds majority to elect a president. It later set their choice for prime minister, Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

An alliance official said Interior Prime Minister Ayad Allawi refused an offer for a Cabinet post. Allawi's office could not be reached for comment.



To celebrate International Women's Day, Iraqi women attend a rally Tuesday in Baghdad. They called for women's liberation, a secular Iraq without Islamic government and the end of the U.S. occupation.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,507 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,145 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria,

eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,369 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,036 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military: ■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military: ■ No identifications reported.

General: U.S. troop level in Iraq to stay steady

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. troop levels in Iraq will remain steady at about 135,000 troops for "the next several months," according to the top U.S. military leader in Iraq.

Once the last of the units held over for Iraqi elections returns home at the end of March, "I don't necessarily anticipate [troop levels] changing much for the next several months," Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, told Pentagon reporters Tuesday.

"We're in a good position following the [January] elections, but we have a lot of work ahead to get to our final objective in



Casey

Iraq," Casey said. "We're actually further along than I thought we'd be at this point," Casey said. "The level of violence, the level of attacks [against coalition forces], have dropped off significantly."

In fact, he said, "last week [marked] the lowest level [of attacks] since April."

However, Casey said he was "not ready to say" that the elections marked a "turning point" that will spell a rapid end to the in-

security.

Despite progress in capturing many bombmakers and other foes of coalition forces and the new Iraqi government, "We are [still] dealing with an insurgency that has sufficient weapons, ammunition and people to maintain attacks [at the level of] 50 or 60 per day in the Sunni area," Casey said. "We've seen that."

Even though attacks against U.S. forces have dropped, attacks continue against Iraqis, in particular the fledgling Iraqi security forces, which are losing members to suicide bombers and other insurgent weapons almost daily.

The insurgents are "clearly going after Iraqi security forces more, that's kind of a steady thing," Casey said.

The election gave the Iraqi people a much-needed psychological boost, Casey said, leaving Iraqi civilians less vulnerable to the demoralizing effect of daily bloodshed.

"For every one attack, two and a half are ineffective," Casey said, "So you get a lot of noise. Before the election, that noise really affected the people, because they had a perception of insecurity," he said. "After the election, it's not having the same effect."

But stabilizing Iraq is an effort that could take many more years, Casey said, although he did not specifically say that U.S. troops would be required for the duration. "Defeating insurgency takes time," Casey said. "The average counterinsurgency in the 20th century took nine years."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Program extends free-flight service to troops' families

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

A partnership of organizations that doles out free airline tickets to servicemembers and families broadened who is eligible to participate and where they may fly.

Last month, the nonprofit Fisher House Foundation, which has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs, several airline companies and "Operation Hero Miles," started flying families to VA medical treatment fa-

cilities to be at the bedside of troops recuperating from wounds sustained in Iraq, Afghanistan and the surrounding areas, Fisher House spokesman Jim Weiskopf said.

About 2,300 airline tickets have been distributed to troops and families, saving recipients about \$2.3 million, Weiskopf said. "Every time we give away tickets, we're saving the families about \$1,000 they don't have to pay in airfare."

U.S. Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Rup-

persberger, D-Md., started "Operation Hero Miles," in November 2003 as a way for troops to collect free tickets when traveling on the two-week Rest and Recuperation leave from the Middle East.

Businesses and people donate frequent flyer miles to the program so troops don't have to pay the airfares to get home.

The program linked with Fisher House Foundation, which began distributing donated miles to families so they could visit

troops at U.S. military medical treatment facilities.

Now it has grown so military men and women can use the donated tickets to fly home to be with their families, or have family fly to wherever they are recuperating.

With R&R flights fully funded by the military, miles donated to "Operation Hero Miles" pay primarily for families' trips to hospitals, said Heather Moeder Moeller, Ruppersberger's spokeswoman.

"And there is a huge need for that," she said.

Servicemembers make the initial requests for tickets, which are forwarded to the Fisher House Foundation by the social work staff or family assistance centers at the medical centers. Requests also can come from service casualty offices.

Information is available on the Internet at: www.fisherhouse.org or www.heromiles.org.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.stripes.osd.mil

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IN THE WORLD

Refusing to speak

AMMAN, Jordan — Fifteen alleged militants refused to speak Monday when a military court asked them to plead to numerous terror charges, including plotting to attack the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Amman.

The court interpreted their silence as a plea of not guilty and adjourned the trial to March 14.

An additional person accused is being tried in absentia on the same charges.

The charge sheet identified the chief defendant as Abed al-Tahawi, 50, and said he pursued the ideology of "takfir" — a policy of killing anybody considered to be an infidel. The charge sheet said al-Tahawi recruited his accomplices while preaching in mosques in Irbid, 50 miles north of the capital.

The defendants planned to attack the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Amman, and a hotel favored by Israeli tourists in Irbid, the charge sheet said.

From The Associated Press

Kosovo PM resigns after indictment

Haradinaj accused of war crimes

BY FISNIK ABRASHI

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro — Kosovo's prime minister resigned Tuesday and said he would surrender to the U.N. court which has indicted him for alleged war crimes, but insisted he was innocent.

Ramush Haradinaj said he would leave Wednesday for The Hague, Netherlands, where the tribunal is based.

"Today I have been called upon to make a sacrifice, something I never believed would happen," he said in a statement. "This means also cooperation with international justice, however unjust it is."

Proclaiming his innocence, Haradinaj said his actions as an ethnic Albanian rebel commander during the 1989-99 war against

Serb forces were consistent with international law.

"I have behaved like an honorable man," he said.

Kosovo still seethes with ethnic tensions nearly six years after the end of the 1998-99 war between Serbs and ethnic Albanians, and the decision to charge Haradinaj raised concerns of renewed violence. U.N. police and NATO troops were put on alert, but no incidents were reported by late Tuesday.

International officials appeared relieved that Haradinaj — a seasoned battlefield commander with a fiery temper and a loyal following — had decided to cooperate.

Expressing his thanks to Haradinaj for resigning and going to The Hague voluntarily, Philip Goldberg, the U.S. representative to Kosovo, said full cooperation



Kosovo's Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj holds his U.N. war crimes indictment and resignation speech before stepping down from his position Tuesday in Pristina.

with the war crimes court is "test of a society's commitment to the rule of law."

Gen. Yves de Kermabon, the head of NATO-led peacekeepers in Kosovo, warned ethnic Al-

bans against succumbing to "the temptation of anger," saying his forces — bolstered by an additional 1,000 troops flown in over the past few days — would make sure order prevailed.

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Corned Beef and Cabbage for St. Patrick's Day the Healthy Way

If, in years past, you've missed a good corned beef and cabbage meal on St. Patrick's Day because you're away from home and away from Mom's cooking advice, then heed this advice. Don't do that again, this year! This is such an easy meal to prepare, there's no way you can go wrong. And, if you were thinking corned beef had way too much fat to be considered a healthy choice, I've got good news for you on that front as well.

Choose a "flat-cut" corned beef. Look for those exact words on the front of the package. It's the leaner half of the whole brisket. Same great corned beef flavor, but it weighs in low enough in fat to qualify as "lean" according to the government's labeling standards. Lean means 10 grams or less total fat, 4.5 grams or less saturated fat, and less than 95 milligrams cholesterol per serving. Check the nutrition label yourself, and know that you can enjoy traditional Irish fare the healthy way.

Most corned beef briskets are in the three to four pound range, so you don't even have to fret over how much to buy. A conservative serving size is about four ounces per person, so count on a four-pound brisket serving eight to ten people.

Don't worry if that's more people than you can feed at one meal, corned beef keeps well. Use leftovers to make cold sandwiches accompanied by some good German mustard, heat thin slices in the microwave for a repeat meal, or better yet make Reuben sandwiches (thinly sliced corned beef, well drained sauerkraut, a slice of Swiss cheese and a table-spoon or so of Russian dressing, stuffed between two slices of lightly buttered rye bread, and grilled in a skillet or griddle, grilled cheese style.)

If you've never eaten corned beef before, now is the time to try it. Don't be surprised by its rosy red color, that's the result of the salt/spice/brine-cure process it undergoes to become corned beef. And, no, corn is not used in the curing process. The name is an age-old reference to the corn-sized crystals of salt used to brine large cuts of beef brisket or beef round.

Follow the cooking instructions on the package using the seasoning packet, or use this recipe from The Joy of Cooking to lower the sodium content just a bit. Check it out when you read the nutrition label - 1100 mg sodium per serving is high. If you prepare it according to package directions using the brine it's packed in, be sure to make low sodium choices in

other foods consumed that day. Either way you're sure to have a wonderful meal.

Corned Beef and Cabbage

1 corned beef brisket (about 4 pounds)

20 black peppercorns

2 bay leaves

1 head green cabbage, cored and cut into wedges

Remove corned beef from package and wash under running water to remove brine. Place the brisket in a large pot and add water to cover. Drop in the peppercorns and bay leaves. Set over high heat and bring liquid to the boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Simmer, covered, for about 3 hours, or until fork can easily penetrate the center. Add cabbage to the pot during the last 15 to 20 minutes of cooking.

Remove the meat from the pot and let stand for 15 minutes. Drain the cabbage and keep warm. Cut the corned beef, against the grain, into thin slices and remove to serving plate or platter.

Serve with boiled potatoes - the new-crop red potatoes, if we have them. Cook and serve them with the peeling on. Offer mustard or horseradish as a condiment for the meat.

Club of Madrid Secretary-General Kim Campbell and Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a former president of Brazil, talk Tuesday following the opening of the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security, held in Madrid, Spain.

AP



Madrid hosts terror summit

World leaders focus on international communication

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A former Brazilian president opened a global summit on terrorism Tuesday, telling delegates that nations must communicate with one another as effectively as they do with their own people if the world is to defeat the terrorist menace. Former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso appealed to experts and government leaders attending a four-day conference to recognize that "terrorism is a phenomenon that doesn't respect national boundaries."

"It is clear that we need to establish a much larger level of international collaboration in order to anticipate terrorism," he said.

Cardoso's pointed remarks underlined one of the

more intractable issues in combatting terrorism: many nations are reluctant to share intelligence data that could lead to the capture of terrorists with anyone but their closest allies, partly out of fear of jeopardizing the sources of the data.

Finding a way to share information — while at the same time buttressing democratic principles — will be a common theme for panelists from about 50 countries who began meeting in closed session Tuesday. The experts will polish policy recommendations they've been working on for about six months and present them Friday.

"We don't want to fall into (the trap) ... that the end justifies the means," Cardoso said, arguing that foregoing civil rights and liberties to end terrorism would be destructive.

International Women's Day marked in Europe

The Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France — European leaders marked International Women's Day Tuesday by calling for equal working rights for women and agreeing to set up a gender institute that will combat sex discrimination.

The institute, which should open by 2007 and have an annual budget of about of gender equality and ensure that it's part of all EU policies, said European Commission chairman Jose Manuel Barroso.

"Women must have easy access to work and be properly paid," Barroso said in his remarks at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. "It's a question of mind-sets. Mentalities must evolve, women's issues must be enhanced. It is crucial to increase the employment rate of women."

"Every day, thousands of women are victims of discrimination on grounds of gender," added European Parliament President Josep Borrell. "They still suffer from psychological, physical and economic violence."

A recent EU report found that, while job discrimination and education gaps were narrowing, men earn on average about 15 percent more than women in the 25-nation bloc.

In Paris, French President Jacques Chirac announced that the government will present a draft law within days on workplace equality between men and women.

"No labor accord will be reached unless negotiations have also touched on the means to achieve wage equality between women and men, in no more than five years," Chirac said.

If the future law is not respected, companies could face sanctions, officials close to the president said.

According to figures from France's National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, women earn 22 percent less than men for the same work.

Across Europe, International Women's Day was marked by events underlining the fight against discrimination.

In Rome, an exhibition devoted to women's issues called "Ripping the Veils," featured art by Arab women living in the West.

The Rome-based World Food Agency launched the Catherine Bertini award — in honor of its former executive director — which will go to the agency's office that does most to put women in control of food security.

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Thousands storming Syria stage Beirut rally

BY TANALEE SMITH
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — About half a million pro-Syrian protesters crowded a central Beirut square Tuesday, chanting anti-American slogans and wildly waving Lebanon's flag in answer to a nationwide call by the militant Shiite Muslim Hezbollah group to demonstrate against U.S.-led intervention and counter weeks of massive anti-Syrian rallies.

Loudspeakers blared catchy but forceful songs of resistance and nationalist speeches. The masses intermittently burst into singing the national anthem, hoisting Lebanon's red and white cedar-tree flag.

Two huge vertical banners at the front of the square read, in English: "Thank you Syria" and "No to foreign interference," a reference to American, French and United Nations pressure to get Syrian troops out of the country.

Syria, faced with incessant international pressure and raging Lebanese opposition, announced Monday it would pull its troops to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley by March 31, and then later to the Syrian border. The agreement between Syrian President Bashar Assad and Lebanese President Emile Lahoud did not give a time line for full withdrawal, nor did it say whether Syrian intelligence would also leave, a key demand of the Lebanese opposition.

There were scattered movements of Syrian troops late Monday and Tuesday on the roads in the central mountains.

A Syrian official in Damascus who did not want to be named said Tuesday that Syrian intelligence agents in Lebanon would be pulled back along with the regular army. Syrian intelligence agents have been the source of resentment for many and their departure is a demand of the Lebanese opposition and the United States.

In a show of force to counter the anti-Syrian



Hundreds of thousands pro-Syrian protesters gather in a central square in Beirut, Lebanon, on Tuesday, chanting anti-American slogans and wildly waving Lebanon's flag in answer to a nationwide call by the militant Shiite Muslim Hezbollah group, in an effort to counter weeks of massive anti-Syrian rallies.

ian protests, Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah declared to the rousing, cheering crowd: "I ask our partners in the country or those looking at us from abroad, 'Are all those hundreds of thousands of people puppets?' Is all this crowd agents for the Syrians and intelligence agencies?"

There were no independent estimates of the crowds, but at least 500,000 people crowded the square and nearby streets.

At least one opposition leader said the pro-Syrian government pressured people to turn out and some reports said Syria had bused in people from across the border.

U.S. expert testifies about al-Qaida interrogations

BY DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany — A U.S. investigator Tuesday testified in the retrial of a Moroccan accused of aiding the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers that Osama bin Laden personally approved the plot against the United States two years before the attacks.

The testimony by Dietrich

Snell, a New York deputy attorney general, was based on the Sept. 11 Commission's report to the U.S. Congress, which he witnessed.

The report said the three Hamburg-based suicide pilots were recruited by bin Laden and Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, an al-Qaida leader in U.S. custody and alleged mastermind of the 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

The Hamburg state court

called Snell as a witness in the case of Mounir el Motassadeq to find out more about the interrogations of Mohammed and Ramzi Binalshih, the Hamburg cell's suspected contact with al-Qaida. The court has heard summaries of the questioning of Binalshih and Mohammed, but has repeatedly asked the United States for more details.

Judge Ernst-Rainer Schudt

asked Snell if he knew whether torture was used in the interrogations, which would make the evidence inadmissible at the Hamburg trial. Snell said he didn't know.

Mounir el Motassadeq, 30, is being retried on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization on charges he provided logistical support for suicide pi-

lots Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah.

He was convicted in 2003 on those charges and sentenced to the maximum 15 years.

But an appeals court threw out the conviction last year, ruling he was unfairly denied testimony by key al-Qaida suspects in U.S. custody, including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Binalshih.

Prince Rainier hospitalized

MONACO — For the second time in less than six months, Prince Rainier III of Monaco has been hospitalized with a chest infection.

Rainier, 81, was admitted Monday to the same clinic where he was treated for a chest infection in October, his palace said Tuesday.

His condition had improved Tuesday but he was expected to remain hospitalized for a few more days.

Fire spotlights prison woes

HIGUEY, Dominican Republic — A prison fire that killed 134 inmates, one of the deadliest in Latin American prisons, has cast a harsh spotlight on conditions in this country's cells.

The Dominican Republic has the most overcrowded jails in the Western Hemisphere, according to U.N. figures, and the fire early Monday in the eastern city of Higuey happened at one of its worst.

The cellblock where the blaze broke out was said to be so packed, inmates were sleeping on top of toilets. To make matters worse, the inmates had guns and knives and easy access to drugs, another notorious feature of prisons here.

Iran leader to visit Bosnians

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami was due in the Bosnian capital on Tues-

day for a three-day official visit where he was to meet the country's top officials and strengthen ties between the two countries.

Khatami will, in addition to meeting the Bosnian three-member presidency, the prime minister and other politicians, meet with local Muslim leaders and with the Inter-religious council, where Bosnia's other main religions — Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish — are represented.

From The Associated Press

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IN THE STATES

Bulleted analysis off

WASHINGTON — An FBI crime lab technician used decades to match bullets to crimes — and relied on by prosecutors in hundreds of criminal trials — is based on “erroneous scientific foundations,” a New Jersey appeals court has ruled.

In a decision Monday overturning a 1997 murder conviction, the court said Michael S. Bender deserves a new trial because expert testimony based on the FBI technique was central to his conviction.

The ruling is believed to be the first to overturn a conviction based on a challenge to the FBI crime lab, the lead content of bullets since the National Academy of Sciences last year raised new questions about the technique.

Disease unit opens

OMAHA, Neb. — The nation's largest medical unit for victims of chemical, biological and nuclear diseases such as smallpox, anthrax and the plague opened in Nebraska on Monday.

The Nebraska Medical Center's 10-bed containment wing has a separate ventilation system, alarms to indicate escaping air, a sterilizer for items leaving the unit and a shower for its volunteer staff to make sure contagious diseases are kept inside.

There are only two other high-level biocontainment facilities in the country — a two-bed suite run by the Army's infectious diseases institute at Fort Detrick, Md., and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's two-bed unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Terror suspects' guns

WASHINGTON — More than 40 terror suspects in federal watch lists were allowed to buy firearms in the United States last year because background checks found no reason to stop them, says a government report released Tuesday.

The GAO recommended that the attorney general clarify procedures to ensure that information from gun purchase background checks is shared with counterterrorism officials and that the FBI should either monitor such checks more frequently or oversee all checks related to terror suspects.

The report showed that from Feb. 3 through June 20, 2004, 35 known or suspected terrorists purchased guns in the United States. From July 1 to Oct. 31 last year, 12 more suspected or known terrorists were allowed to buy firearms.

Death row review

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is asking Texas to conduct new hearings for 51 Mexicans on death row who say they were denied legal help from their consulates in violation of international law.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague last year ruled that the convictions violated the 1963 Vienna Convention, but not providing the Mexicans with consular access. In 1969, the Senate ratified the treaty, which requires access for Americans detained abroad and foreigners arrested in the United States.

From wire reports

Clinton to have heart-related surgery

Office says doctors will remove fluid and scar tissue from his left chest

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Clinton will undergo a medical procedure this week to remove an unusual buildup of fluid and scar tissue from his chest, six months after he underwent quadruple bypass surgery, his office said Tuesday. “I feel fine,” Clinton said in Washington.

The low-risk procedure will take place Thursday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

Clinton will remain hospitalized for three to 10 days and is expected to make a “full functional recovery,” doctors said.

Clinton, who played to a golf tournament in Florida on Wednesday with former President George H.W. Bush for tsunami relief, said doctors discovered the condition during a recent X-ray. He called the surgery a “routine sort of thing.”

“I feel fine,” Clinton told reporters follow-

ing a visit to the Oval Office with the former president. “And we’re going to go play golf tomorrow.”

The procedure, known as a decortication, will remove scar tissue that has developed as a result of fluid buildup and inflammation causing compression and collapse of the lower lobe of the left lung, doctors said. The surgery will be done either through a small incision or with a video-assisted thoracoscope inserted between ribs.

Clinton's problem is a relatively rare complication of his surgery, where inflammation of the lining of the heart develops and fluid builds around it or in the lungs, said Dr. John LaRosa, president of the State University of New York Health Science Center in Brooklyn. It doesn't signal anything ominous about the former president's outlook, he said.

“It is unusual” for it to develop so long after the operation, said Dr. Valentin Furstner, a cardiologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in

New York and a former American Heart Association president.

Schwartz said Clinton passed a full physical before leaving on a trip to Asia last month to survey tsunami damage. He also scored in the 95th percentile for his age in a stress test, Schwartz said.

Clinton, 58, had been quite active since his Sept. 6 heart surgery in New York, presiding over the opening of his presidential library in Little Rock, Ark., and, more recently, joining the first President Bush for a public relations campaign to help raise private funds for the victims of the Asian tsunami.

Former President Bush said he had trouble keeping up with Clinton in Asia.

“You should have seen him going, town to town, country to country, Energizer Bunny here. He killed me,” Bush said.

Six months ago, Clinton had undergone quadruple coronary artery bypass surgery after suffering chest pains and shortness of breath.

As president, Clinton was an avid jogger who had a love of fast food.

PROFILE

Experienced public servant

Ambassador to the United Nations nominee John R. Bolton, 56, has held numerous federal public servant positions since 1981.

Education — Bachelor's degree, Yale University, 1970; law degree, Yale Law School, 1974

Federal service — Undersecretary of state, 2001-present; assistant secretary, Department of State, 1989-93; assistant attorney general, Department of Justice, 1985-89; assistant administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, 1982-83; general counsel, USAID, 1981-82

Bolton's confirmation hearings for U.N. job expected to be rough

BY LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's pick of a vocal U.N. critic to be the next U.S. ambassador to the world body was meant to send a message that change is needed there, the White House said Tuesday.

Now undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, John R. Bolton was announced Monday as Bush's choice for the post. He is likely to face a tough Senate confirmation hearing before Democrats who argue that he has disdained the world body and Republicans who are wary of him.

But White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bolton is the right man for the job at a time when the Bush administration is looking for reforms at the U.N.

“The president believes that there is more that needs to be done to make sure that it is an organization that is effective and an organization that is fulfilling its mandate,” he said. “There are some areas where it can do much better.”

Atop that list, McClellan said, is making sure “that when resolutions are passed that the Security Council means what it says.”

“John Bolton is someone who is dedicated to positive reforms at the United Nations,” McClellan said. “He is a tough-minded diplomat who is committed to achieving results.”

Confirmation hearings are expected next month.

The appointment comes at a crucial time U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is setting forward with plans to reform the world body, and U.S. opinion of the United Nations, particularly in Congress, is at a low.

In 2001, 43 Democratic senators opposed Bolton's nomination for his current post. He was confirmed anyway.

During his tenure, Bolton has ranked lawmakers with his tough foreign policy talk. However, on Monday, he promised to work closely with Congress to advance Bush's policies. “Working closely with others is essential to ensure a safer world,” he added.

If confirmed, Bolton, 56, would succeed former Sen. John Danforth.

Bush: Democracy is key to defeating world terrorism

BY TERENCE HUNT

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush hailed fresh signs of democracy in the Middle East on Tuesday, saying authoritarian rule is “the last gasp of a discredited past” and demanding that Syria withdraw from Lebanon.

“Freedom will prevail in Lebanon,” Bush declared, rejecting the message from a demonstration in Beirut by nearly 500,000 pro-Syrian protesters who chanted anti-American slogans. Bush instead took sides with anti-Syrian demonstrators of recent days who have demanded that Damascus remove its 14,000 troops from Lebanon.

“All the world is witnessing your great movement of conscience,” Bush told the people of Lebanon. “The American people are on your side. Millions across the Earth are on your side.”

Bush spoke at the National Defense University, a center for professional military education.

The speech was described as an update on the war on terrorism, a struggle that he linked with repressive conditions in the Middle East that he said give rise to extremism.

“The advance of hope in the Middle East requires new thinking in the region,” the president said. “By now it should be clear that authoritarian rule is not the wave of the future. It is the last gasp of a discredited past.”

Bush said the entire world has “an urgent interest in the progress and hope and freedom in the broader Middle East.”

“Our duty is now clear,” he said. “For the sake of our long-term security, all free nations



President Bush tells an audience at the National Defense University in Washington on Tuesday that spreading democracy in the Middle East was essential to winning the war on terrorism.

must stand with the forces of democracy and justice that have begun to transform the Middle East.”

Bush's speech on terrorism marked a return to the trademark theme of his re-election campaign. After the election, Bush turned his focus to an uphill battle to radically redesign the Social Security program by offering personal investment accounts, a step that would be accompanied by a reduction in future benefits.

While more than half of Americans oppose his Social Security overhaul, a solid majority approve of his handling of the terrorism fight.

“In this war on terror America is not alone,” Bush said.

Wife: Mauled man tried to reason with chimps

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A man who was severely mauled by two chimpanzees at an animal sanctuary last week was quickly overwhelmed when the apes attacked, his wife said Monday.

"One was at his head, one was at his foot. But all that time... he was trying to reason with them," a sobbing LaDonna Davis told ABC's "Good Morning America." "I couldn't do anything."

Davis, 64, and her husband, St. James

Davis, were visiting Animal Haven Ranch near Bakersfield on Thursday when two male chimps escaped their enclosure and attacked the couple.

"When we made eye contact, the charge was on," LaDonna Davis said. "There was no stopping anything, and the big chimp came around from behind me and pushed me into my husband. The male came around from behind and chopped off my thumb... My husband must have realized we were in deep trouble because he pushed me backward. At that time, they

both went for him."

St. James Davis, 62, lost all the fingers from both hands, an eye, part of his nose, cheek, lips and part of his buttocks in the ferocious attack, his wife said over the weekend on NBC's "Today Show." She also said one of his feet was mutilated. A Kern County Sheriff's commander also said his genitals were mauled.

St. James Davis was being treated at Loma Linda University Medical Center, where doctors said his condition was "minute by minute," his wife said Monday.

"Right now what they are trying to do is keep his breathing constant," she said. "... I told him that he can't leave me. He has to be strong."

The Davises were visiting the sanctuary to celebrate the birthday of Moe, a chimpanzee who was taken from their home after biting off part of a woman's finger in 1999.

Authorities were continuing to investigate how the two chimps got loose. Both were shot and killed during the attack. Test results released Monday showed the two chimps didn't have rabies.

Stewart aims to fashion a more emotional message for her fans

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A beaming Martha Stewart told several hundred employees that the lessons she learned from a cross-section of people she met during five months in federal prison will be reflected in her company.

Stewart said on her first day back at work Monday that Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. has focused too much in the past on technical aspects of entertaining and cooking, and not enough on why people need to

take care of each other.

"We're going to deepen our bond with the millions who read our publications and watch our television programs," Stewart said. "We're going to engage and inspire new readers and new viewers for whom these topics may have seemed alien, unfamiliar or even... believe it or not — superficial."

As if to confirm her new down-to-earth image, Stewart pulled out a much-photographed poncho she wore when released from prison, saying it did not come from a fancy store, but was crocheted by a fellow inmate.

Whether or not Stewart has emerged from prison a changed woman may not matter as far as her company goes, observers said. They said the new strategy is brilliant for turning around Stewart's multimedia empire, which has struggled with a string of losses since June 2002.

"Her prison experience can be used as a new and powerful brand asset," said John Barker, president of DZP Marketing Communications, based in New York. "What prison has done is to make her more fallible. There is this opportunity to make Martha more



Employees of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. applaud as Martha Stewart addresses them during a meeting in New York on Monday.

approachable, more empathetic."

Barker said Martha Stewart Living previously focused on financial benefits in its editorial content, but has become more aware of the

"emotional power of the brand."

Stewart's prison experience has made her "start to understand the real struggles that people have in their lives," he said.

Man charged after helping dying friend take own life

BY CARA RUBINSKY

The Associated Press

CORNWALL, Conn. — Any of the dozen friends caring for John T. Welles could have been there the morning that the 66-year-old decided to take his life.

Welles, a fiercely independent former Marine and inventor, had not seen a doctor in decades and did not know he had prostate cancer until three weeks before killing himself on June 11, 2004.

Those caring for him said he made no secret of his plans.

Now, 74-year-old Huntington Williams is charged with manslaughter for helping fulfill his dying friend's wish.

The case has galvanized residents in Connecticut's bucolic northwest corner, even though legalizing physician-assisted suicide doesn't seem on the horizon. "Hunt just happened to be there at the time. I don't think anyone would have wanted to trade places with him," said Cornwall official Rodway.

"They can go anywhere that happened in five minutes to realize Mr. Welles was critically ill, that it was his wish to die on his own terms and not become a vegetable, and that Hunt was there to help him."

If convicted, Williams faces up to 10 years in prison. He was next expected in court on Friday.

Though there are no statistics

on assisted suicide, the issue has sparked a legal debate nationally. In the past five years, people in Michigan, Maryland, North Carolina, Wisconsin and Rhode Island have been charged with helping friends or relatives kill themselves.

In Oregon, the only state where doctor-assisted suicide is legal, 171 terminally ill people have died after taking lethal doses of medication. The Bush administration has challenged the law, which has so far been upheld by federal courts.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to hear the case.

The morning Welles died, Williams relieved a friend who had spent the night with the dying man.

"John needs to do this. Are you able to do this with him?" the friend asked Williams, according to an affidavit.

Williams, a volunteer emergency medical technician and retired high school teacher, had watched his wife, Rebecca, die of ovarian cancer a decade ago. He said that he could "honor John's wishes."

He cleaned Welles' 38-caliber revolver and carried it outside.

Smoking a pipe and leaning on a walker, Welles headed to the front yard.

The men shook hands and Williams walked down the driveway.

Before Williams could say "God bless," he heard a gunshot.

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OPINION

Ten Commandments divisiveness on display

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

When public officials decide to post the Ten Commandments in public places, they often stress the religious significance to a Christian nation. But when they defend these monuments in court, they push religion into the background and make elaborate, but often faulty, arguments about the secular importance of the commandments in American history.

Last week was no different as the U.S. Supreme Court considered the constitutionality of a 6-foot-tall granite monument on the State Capitol grounds in Austin, Texas, and Ten Commandments plaques in two county courthouses in Kentucky.

Matthew D. Staver, defending the Kentucky plaques, stressed that there were "really, very few" religious words in the Ten Commandments. An incredulous Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fired back, "Have you read the first four commandments when you say that?"

The Supreme Court's task is not to decide whether Ten Commandments displays in general violate the First Amendment, but, rather, where to draw the line between displays that are constitutional and those that are not.

Not all displays abide the First Amendment's bar to "an establishment of religion." Certainly, the Su-

preme Court itself need not sandblast the mural of Moses and the Ten Commandments from the courtroom's east wall. The mural is a piece of art depicting the great lawgivers of history, from the Babylonian King Hammurabi to Confucius to Napoleon to Mohammed.

Just as clearly, on the other hand, the First Amendment does not permit former Alabama Supreme Court Judge Roy Moore to place a 2.6-ton monument to the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Supreme Court building, virtually turning the rotunda into a religious sanctuary.

The Texas and Kentucky displays lie somewhere between those extremes. The Texas monument is one of 17 on the Capitol grounds, scattered among tributes to Confederate soldiers and pioneer women.

Like a similar monument on the Missouri Capitol grounds in Jefferson City, it was donated by the Fraternal Order of Eagles as part of a promotional campaign by Cecil B. DeMille for his 1956 movie "The Ten Commandments." The settings of the Kentucky plaques also have been secularized over the years with the additions of copies of the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact.

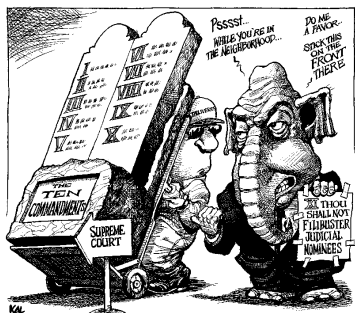
What separates the constitutional from the unconstitutional display is, location, proximity to other historical artifacts, or the statements public officials make

when erecting the displays? The justices appeared to be struggling for answers. Except, that is, for Justice Antonin Scalia, for whom the answer was easy: The Ten Commandments, he declared, is "a symbol of the fact that government derives its authority from God."

But the justices likely to cast the deciding vote weren't so certain. "It's so hard to draw the line," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy asked at one point why an atheist couldn't just "avert his eyes" at the Texas monument. But he also stated it was obvious that the main value of the displays was their "religious purpose."

Although the Kentucky plaques are much smaller than the Texas monument, they also are harder to defend, the Kentucky counties proclaimed that they were posting the commandments to support Judge Moore, to demonstrate "America's Christian heritage" and to emphasize Jesus Christ's role as "Prince of Ethics."

The Kentucky counties subsequently argued that the commandments "influence is clearly seen in the Declaration of Independence." In fact, there is no link between the commandments and the declaration, nor were the Ten Commandments mentioned during the Constitutional Convention. Yet the Kentucky counties argued that adding secular elements to the Ten Commandments display cured any constitutional problems.



If it court buys this reasoning, it would drag Ten Commandments cases the way of creche decisions finding Nativity scenes standing alone on a courthouse staircase unconstitutional, but ones joined by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman on the courthouse lawn secular enough for prime time.

Justice O'Connor seemed to consider age a possible criterion for approval, suggesting that preservation of an "old object" might be a nonreligious justification for a Ten

Commandments display. That would have the practical advantage of not requiring bulldozers to remove big granite monuments from the middle of town squares.

A majority of Americans believe in the principles of the Ten Commandments, but that doesn't give government the right to force-feed them to the minority — whether atheists or pantheists or Buddhists — that does not. And the transparent play of diminishing the commandments' religious significance in an attempt to get the court's approval of public display insults their very sacredness.

Taking steps to understand what service means

BY NANCY V. BEKAVAC

Every morning at sunrise, I walk my large mixed-breed dogs through my small college town. There's a dreamlike quality to most mornings. I've gotten to know my neighbors' gardens and trees. Sometimes I choose the route for specific reasons. One recent day, it was for the flowering cherry that had just opened, and the last of the crab apple blossoms. The dogs were snuffling in the ivy when I heard a group of strong young voices calling out a marching cadence.

That an ROTC unit at this cluster of small colleges. As I walked south, they came toward me, running in formation on the street, three or four abreast, mostly short-haired men, but there were some women with pony tails. They wore gray "ARMY" T-shirts, black shorts and orange web belts. The lead officer, a chesty 40-year-old, responded to my "Hello," and he and the group ran in place to let me and the dogs cross in front of them. As they passed behind me, a woman's voice called out the next verse, and then they all repeated it: "If I die in a combat zone, put me in a box and ship me home."

Their rubber soles hit the pavement with a dull thud as they jogged slowly past. As I reached the far corner, I tried to get hold of my feelings. Only one of them was likely to have seen a combat zone, and I bet none of them had ever looked into "a box."

I teared up suddenly and my chest contracted, remembering my first sightings of body bags on the tarmac in South Vietnam, where I was working as a reporter in 1970. When I was in high school, I'd seen the coffin of young military men and women arriving at the funeral home my family ran in

Clairemont, Pa. The coffins, accompanied by members, were uncared for their shipping cases and put on a bier.

I remember the faces of the families, stunned and puzzled, when they faced the coffins, the sound of muffled sobs and the women wringing their hands and handkerchiefs, if they were older, or tissues for the younger ones.

Then I was brought back to the present by the next cadence: "Put my medals on my chest, tell my mom I did my best."

They ran off, and I lost their sound as the dogs tugged me along. I was blinking fast, remembering those funerals in that small town, where I had grown up, as friends and ministers gathered to try to console the mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters. My brothers would help the fami-

ly members into the cars for the trip to the cemetery, and I stayed behind to clean.

The young people I encountered on the street that day could not know or imagine those long-ago scenes, except perhaps as television films or news clips or photos in newspapers.

Surely, they must think, those scenes could never be about them, or their friends or families; surely their circle of family and buddies would never blink back tears in the morning light as the trumpet sounded taps, or hug the folded flag the soldier handed to them.

My walk continued, toward the bakery and my morning circle of friends, coffee and gossip. Behind me, those shining young people, beautiful in their strength and sure in their purpose, were being molded to defend

me — to defend us. Surely, I want none of them harmed — no boxes, no medals, no weeping mothers. But surely I want to be secure, to have all of this protected. If I will that end, must I will that means?

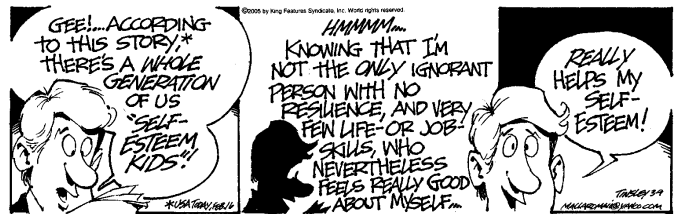
It is no answer to say those young people "volunteered" — what do they know about alternatives? What other way can they afford their expensive colleges? How else can they feel they are serving their country?

This is a very pleasant small town. Once they ran past me, there was no mark that those young soldiers had been there. It would be pleasant to put them out of my mind, to put all that is going on in our name out of my mind, as we do every day. It would be pleasant and wrong.

Nancy V. Bekavac is president of Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Gas prices reach \$2 a gallon

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The retail price of gasoline rose 7 cents last week to average \$2 per gallon nationwide, the Energy Department reported Monday.

That's the highest average price since early November, but still six pennies below the peak set last May. The jump in retail gasoline prices coincided with a 25-cent-per-gallon increase in the price of gasoline futures last week and as crude oil futures briefly rallied above \$55 a barrel.

The government survey said the average price nationwide of regular-grade unleaded gasoline rose 7.1 cents last week to \$1.999 per gallon. Prices are 26.1 cents higher than a year ago.

Pump prices are highest on the West Coast, averaging \$2.174 per gallon, and cheapest on the Gulf Coast, averaging \$1.900 per gallon. In the Midwest, gas averages \$2.009 per gallon.

One of the key factors that drove the price of gasoline higher was the rising cost of oil — the result of strong demand, tight global supplies, geopolitical uncertainties and the falling value of the dollar.

The price of light crude for March delivery rose 11 cents to \$53.89 a barrel Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil is about 10 percent more expensive than a year ago.

In other Nymex trading, November gasoline futures fell by less than a cent to \$1.5053 per gallon.



Sony taps Westerner to head company

BY YURI KAGEYAMA

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Determined to break with its past, Sony Corp. tapped a foreigner — former CBS executive Howard Stringer, 57 — as CEO Monday and vowed to turn around its lagging electronics sector by linking it with its entertainment businesses — a goal that has long eluded the company.

A native of Wales who later acquired U.S. citizenship, Stringer, 63, has helped make Sony's music and movie business one of the Japanese company's few bright spots in recent years. He replaces Nobuyuki Idei, 67, who has led the Tokyo-based company for a decade.

The shake-up comes amid growing concern about whether Tokyo-based Sony can revive its electronics operations in the face of cheaper competition from Asian rivals.

Foreign executives at major Japanese companies are still extremely rare. The

one exception has been Brazilian-born Carlos Ghosn, chief executive at Nissan Motor Co., who has become a hero here by reviving the automaker from near-collapse to growth in the past several years.

Stringer, vice chairman at Sony and

“The pace of innovation across all the businesses in which we compete has changed. So Sony too must change.”

Howard Stringer
New Sony CEO

chief executive of Sony Corp. of America, was chosen as chairman and chief executive by the board, subject to shareholders' approval in June. He speaks no Japanese.

Sony said Stringer will continue to live in New York and travel between the United States and Japan. He took U.S. citizenship

in 1985, becoming a dual British-American national, according to Sony.

Kunitake Ando said he was also stepping down as president to be replaced by Ryoji Chubachi, 57, an executive with experience in Sony's electronics and networking divisions.

At a news conference in Tokyo, Stringer brushed off questions about his ability to lead a Japanese company. He joined Sony in 1997 after serving as president of CBS News from 1986 to 1988, and then president of CBS Broadcast Group from 1988 to 1995. CBS is now part of the media conglomerate Viacom.

“As with all great institutions, Sony has built a tremendous legacy over 50 years. But we need to take that trap us or inhibit us. We cannot take that legacy and reinvent it,” Stringer said. “The dynamic and competitive landscape have changed. The pace of innovation across all the businesses in which we compete has changed. So Sony too must change.”

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

| INDEXES | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------|
| 52-week High | 52-week Low | Index | Last | % Chg |
| 18,832.4 | 2,016.40 | Dow Jones Industrials | 11,930.86 | +5.8 |
| 3,846.4 | 2,743.46 | Dow Jones Transportation | 3,876.13 | +45.16 |
| 252.3 | 259.88 | Dow Jones Utilities | 252.37 | +1.52 |
| 2,513.8 | 6,211.13 | NYSE Composite | 2,499.31 | +1.7 |
| 1,539.14 | 1,150.74 | Amex Index | 1,526.16 | +4.33 |
| 2,210.1 | 2,552.82 | Nasdaq Composite | 2,299.31 | +15.59 |
| 1,249.78 | 1,069.72 | S&P 500 | 1,225.31 | +1.19 |
| 548.29 | 548.29 | Gold | 548.29 | +1.35 |
| 656.11 | 515.99 | Russell 2000 | 643.86 | +1.19 |
| 12,705.35 | 16,268.52 | Oil (Wholesale) | 12,873.43 | +33.33 |

| KEY DEFENSE STOCKS | | | | | KEY MUTUAL FUNDS | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|---------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| Name | Vol | Div Pct | YTD % | Chg % | Name | NAV | Chg % | YTD % | |
| Atlantic Technologies | 1.07 | 7.18 | +4.4 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 38.43 | +4.4 | +4.4 | |
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| Boeing | 1.07 | 1.0 | +3.8 | +1.7 | First Investors Growth | 3 | | | |

| KEY DEFENSE STOCKS | | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Name | DE | FE | LA | YTD |
| Adiant Technology | 1.07 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
| Armstrong | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
| Computer Sciences | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
| Computer Sciences | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
| Computer Sciences | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
| Computer Sciences | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
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| Computer Sciences | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
| Computer Sciences | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |
| Computer Sciences | 1.00 | 17.73 | +7.11 | +2.71 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | | \$1 = |
|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| Dollar buys | 67.73637 | |
| British pound | 1.93191 | |
| Japanese yen (March 10) | 107.00 | |
| South Korean won (March 9) | 111.23 | |
| Commercial rates | | |
| Bahrian (Dinar) | 1.3122 | |
| Burmese (Kyat) | 1.277 | |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.277 | |
| Denmark (Krone) | 1.277 | |
| Egypt (Pound) | 1.277 | |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 1.277 | |
| Hungary (Forint) | 1.277 | |
| Iceland (Krona) | 1.277 | |
| Ireland (Pound) | 1.277 | |
| Israel (Shekel) | 1.277 | |
| Japan (Yen) | 1.277 | |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 1.277 | |
| Norway (Krone) | 1.277 | |
| Philippines (Peso) | 1.277 | |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 1.277 | |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.277 | |
| South Korea (Won) | 1.277 | |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.277 | |
| Thailand (Baht) | 1.277 | |
| United States (Dollar) | 1.277 | |

Asian carmakers top magazine's annual list of trouble-free vehicles

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

DETROIT — U.S. automakers improved the reliability of their products last year, but Hyundai Motor Co. and other Asian companies still make the most trouble-free vehicles, according to a survey released Monday by Consumer Reports magazine.

Customers reported an average of 17 problems per 100 vehicles for 2004 models from DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group, Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp., the magazine said. That was down from 18 problems per 100 in 2003.

Japanese and Korean automakers had a rate of 12 problems per 100 vehicles — unchanged in the magazine's last three surveys. European automakers, some of whom have battled quality issues in recent years, had 21 problems per 100 vehicles. That's up from 20 a year ago.

The survey is part of Consumer Reports' annual auto issue, scheduled to hit newsstands Tuesday. The 2004 Hyundai Sonata was the most reliable vehicle in 2004,

with two problems per 100 vehicles. Consumer Reports said the Sonata is "further establishing Hyundai's remarkable turnaround from one of the least reliable brands to one of the best."

As an overall trend, Consumer Reports recorded a reliability rating of 11 problems per 100 vehicles, tying it with Toyota Motor Corp.'s Lexus and Nissan Motor Co.'s Infiniti nameplates. Subaru was the most reliable brand in 2004, with an average of eight problems per 100 vehicles.

Reliability can vary widely within a company. The 2004 Ford Mustang was the most reliable car made by a U.S. manufacturer, with five problems per 100 vehicles, the magazine said. But Ford's Lincoln Navigator sport utility vehicle tied with the Nissan Quest minivan as the least reliable, with 49 problems per 100 vehicles.

Consumer Reports measures reliability by surveying its subscribers. The magazine collected data on a record 810,000 privately owned or leased vehicles, 20 percent more than the 675,000 vehicles included in last year's survey.

PRECIOUS METALS

| London close | | \$438.20 |
|--------------|-------|----------|
| Gold | 1,750 | |
| Silver | 1,750 | |
| Platinum | 1,750 | |
| Palladium | 1,750 | |
| Rhodium | 1,750 | |
| Iridium | 1,750 | |
| Osmium | 1,750 | |
| Ruthenium | 1,750 | |
| Technetium | 1,750 | |
| Yttrium | 1,750 | |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Prime rate | 5.50 |
| Discount rate | 3.50 |
| Federal funds market rate | 2.50 |
| 3-month bill | 2.710 |
| 30-year bond | 4.62 |

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Car theft capital

MD UPPER MARYLAND — Nearly half of all auto thefts in Maryland occur in Prince George's County, though the jurisdiction has only about 15 percent of the state's population, officials say.

State delegates from the county are seeking legislation to help solve the problem. One bill would require insurance companies to contribute a dollar for every car insured to a state fund devoted to combating vehicle theft.

Riverside development

AL BIRMINGHAM — About 4.5 miles along the Cahaba River in suburban Birmingham will be kept in its natural state as part of 325 acres set aside for conservation by the developer of the upscale Liberty Park.

The area will be off-limits to future construction or tree clearing and will be maintained in a way that meets federal, state or city conservation policies, project manager Sam Lowery said.

Working for a nonprofit

MA BOSTON — The state's nonprofit work force grew by 8.6 percent between 2000 and 2003, while overall employment fell by 4.1 percent, according to a research group. Its report found that nonprofit organizations employed 420,671 people, or 13 percent of the state's work force. That's nearly double the national average of 6.9 percent. Only North Dakota, Washington, D.C., and Vermont have higher percentages of workers in the nonprofit sector, according to the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth.

Gimme the M.O.N.E.Y

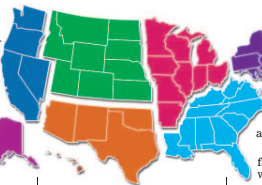
GA ATLANTA — Marlow Braswell, former University of Georgia cheerleading coach, still owes UGA more than \$300,000 for expenses she ran up in the three on-campus cheerleading camps she hosted last summer, officials say.

A university lawyer says Braswell could face legal action if she doesn't pay up soon. Braswell's husband said the couple disputes the amount UGA says she owes. The university cited food, housing and other services it provided for Braswell's private corporation.

Dude, that's my shirt

TX GRAPEVINE — As Napoleon Dynamite would put it, a sweet deal has fallen into Randall Sowa's lap.

For four summers in the 1980s, Sowa hawked T-shirts with a helicopter image on them designed by a pal, Phil Goetti. Each summer there was a different design. And each summer Sowa sold a couple of hundred shirts to the rough-and-tumble guys who explored — with dynamite — for oil and natural gas in remote areas of the West.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Two decades later, the geeky, quirky, tetherball-loving Napoleon, tie hero of the wildly popular cult movie, showed up on-screen wearing these same shirts.

Since "Napoleon Dynamite" was released last spring, Sowa has sold several thousand of the helicopter tees online. Now the shirts will be sold in 600 Hot Topic stores in malls in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The film, made in 2003 by the husband-and-wife team of Brigham Young University students Jared and Jerusha Hess, has grossed more than \$45 million in theaters alone and sold more than a million DVDs in about three months.

Ice cream truck fatality

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A 2-year-old boy was fatally injured when he ran into the path of an ice cream truck in the parking lot of his apartment complex, and the driver allegedly left the scene, authorities said.

Angela Rodriguez, 27, later turned herself in and was charged with leaving the scene of a fatality, which carries a possible 15-year prison sentence. She was jailed in



50F is just right

With the Washington Monument in the background, a pair of sailors maneuver their boat on the Potomac River in Washington as temperatures rose to about 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

lieu of \$100,000 bail.

Witnesses said the driver got out of her truck after the wreck and moved the boy, Moses Joseph, before driving away.

Moses died after his mother, Emmanuelle Richard, ran to him.

"That's all she has," said family friend John Chery, who had been on his way to pick up Moses to go to a park. "You just don't know how lovable this child was."

Plateau drilling

CO GRAND JUNCTION — Mesa County commissioners backed a recommendation by federal officials for managing the Roan Plateau in western Colorado. The plan would allow limited drilling on the plateau, an area that environmentalists say is rich with wildlife and diverse ecosystems. Elected officials in at least five cities in neighboring Garfield County oppose the proposal.

Price of prosecution

AZ PHOENIX — Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas asked county supervisors for an additional \$6.3 million this year to shore up salaries for prosecutors. The office experienced 17 percent turnover last year. Thomas said that more than 70 percent of all county prosecutors have five years' experience or less.

One seat, 3 candidates

IA DUBUQUE — Democrats are lining up to run in 2006 for Congress in eastern Iowa's 1st District. Rick Dickinson, an economic development official in Dubuque, announced his intentions over the weekend. The seat is held by Rep. Jim Nussle, a Republican who's widely expected to run for governor in 2006. Dickinson is the third Democrat to announce he will seek the seat.

Avalanche kills man

CO ASPEN — A man taking an avalanche awareness class died after being trapped in a slide outside the boundaries of the Aspen Highlands ski area, sheriff's officials said.

The man died within a half-hour of being pulled alive from the avalanche, said Ann Stephenson of the Pitkin County sheriff's office.

His name, age and hometown were not released until his family could be notified. Officials were investigating the death.

The man was in a group of six people who were part of a class sponsored by the backcountry expedition company Aspen Expeditions, Stephenson said. A man answering the phone at Aspen Expeditions referred all questions to authorities.

It was not clear what triggered the avalanche.

Early estimates were that the avalanche slid 3,400 vertical feet, said mountain weather and avalanche forecaster Scott Toepfer of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.



World upside down

Mike Brumet goes "over the falls" while riding a huge wave during the first heat of the Mavericks Surf Competition in Half Moon Bay, Calif.



It's a yawner

A 4-week-old bear cub yawns while its siblings rest after being weighed and measured during a den study in Cottonball, Ark. Black bears in Arkansas have been on the comeback trail for the past several decades. After the bears were wiped out in the 19th and early 20th centuries, biologists reintroduced 254 bears into the Arkansas wilderness during the 1960s. Now the state's black bear population is about 3,500.



Alluring goods

Claire Ablett, center, her husband, Graham, and son, Tom, 11, far right, of Lincolnshire, England, look at Cartier watches while visiting upscale stores at the Mall at Millenia in Orlando, Fla. Orlando tourism officials have unveiled an \$8 million marketing campaign to lure tourists seeking luxury goods.



On the march

the fall of the Alamo in San Antonio.

People portraying the Texan army march during the San Antonio Living History Association's "Dawn at the Alamo," a ceremony commemorating



Circle of death

The husband and wife daredevil team of Don Daniels II and Sandra D. ride the Wall of Death together on their vintage Harley and Indian motorcycles at the Iron Horse Saloon in Ormond Beach, Fla., during Bike Week 2005.



Long brush strokes

Clarence Lambert, with Expert Window Cleaning, Co., of Baton Rouge, La., uses a water brush system reaching more than 40 feet from the ground to wash outside windows along the crosswalk from the Argosy Atrium to the casino in downtown Baton Rouge.

To reek or not to reek

CA SAN LUIS OBISPO — A new county law aims to keep readers from reeking.

Libraries in San Luis Obispo County have had their own rules banning offensive body odor since 1994, but the policy became law after the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that lets authorities kick out malodorous guests.

The law can raise tough questions for librarians, said Irene Macias, Santa Barbara's library services manager.

"What is bad odor?" Macias asked. "A woman who wears a strong perfume? A person who had a garlicy meal?"

'PEZheads' unite

WI DE PERE — For most people, PEZ is just a candy, but Barry Umbs calls his addition to collecting PEZ dispensers "a bit of an illness."

Umbs, an engineering manager for Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, joined some 60 other self-described "PEZheads" at a convention in De Pere.

The man has been a feverish PEZ dispenser collector for the past 15 years, and seeks not only each kind of dispenser, such as ones featuring Bugs Bunny, but the same kind from different countries, with different patent numbers and packaging.

The event, the second held by Bryan and Tammy Lewis of De Pere, offered PEZheads the chance to buy, sell and swap their dispensers, show off their collections, and share PEZ news.

License to arrange roses

LA BATON ROUGE — In Louisiana, not just anyone can sell a bunch of pretty flowers. You have to have a license.

U.S. District Judge Frank Polozola ruled that the state can keep its unique law requiring florists to pass a test and get a license to work on their own. Would-be florists had argued that the law unconstitutionally bars them from entering the occupation.

About half of all applicants fail the test, which includes a written exam and one in which they must create four floral arrangements in as many hours. Unlicensed "floral clerks" can work only in a shop that also has a licensed florist. "There are few occupational licensing laws as crazy as this one in this country," said Clark Neily with the Institute for Justice, a libertarian nonprofit law firm in Washington, D.C.

Neily has argued that the question of who has floral talent should be left to the market: people whose arrangements are ugly would soon find themselves without customers.

Student stabbed at party

MA AMHERST — A University of Massachusetts student was stabbed in the neck during a party on campus, school officials said.

UMass spokesman Ed Blaguszewski said the stabbing occurred around 12:30 a.m. on a Sunday at the Student Union Ballroom. The crowd of about 700 gathered after a fashion show earlier in the evening at the Student Union.

The stabbing occurred during a fight that was broken up by UMass police officers using pepper spray.

The student, who was not identified, was treated at Holyoke Hospital and released, Blaguszewski said. No suspects have been identified.

Don't fish the state fish

NE LINCOLN — An animal rights group has a beef with the state fish.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is asking Gov. Dave Heineman to declare the channel catfish, Nebraska's state fish, off limits to fishing.

PETA launched a campaign last year to ban fishing, arguing that it is a cruel thing to do.

Heineman rejected the request. "Fishing is a time honored tradition in Nebraska, and I have no intention of modifying Nebraska's fishing guidelines," he said.

Better than 'Survivor'

CA SAN FRANCISCO — They value privacy, solitude and penthouse living.

And yet expectant parents George and Gracie are now starring in their own reality show.

All it takes are two peregrine falcons, one Web camera and \$30,000 from a corporate giant.

"They're part of life here in downtown San Francisco," said Brian Swanson, a spokesman for that corporate giant, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

The birds live on a 33rd-floor ledge of the utility's headquarters.

An Internet presence will substantially increase the raptors' voyeuristic fan club. The comings and goings of the falcons can be seen at www.scpbrg.org.

Destructive grass fires

IA CARSON — Grass fires driven by 45 mph wind swept across an area of southwestern Iowa, destroying four rural homes and blackening more than 4,000 acres.

The largest of the blazes was started by a house fire east of Carson, said Terry Hummel, the county's emergency management coordinator. It was not immediately clear if that house was one of the four that were destroyed.

The blazes jumped bare fields and ditches as wind gusts to 45 mph and temperatures rose to record highs in the '70s, spreading across about 12 miles in the county east of Omaha, Neb.

Two firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation.

Tomato, tamahito

NJ TRENTON — The humble tomato may technically be a fruit, but lawmakers here consider it a vegetable.

Members of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Monday approved a measure designating the Jersey tomato as the official state vegetable. A similar proposal is pending in a Senate committee.

Sponsors of the measure get around the fact that the tomato is considered a fruit by using a century-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling that slapped a vegetable tariff on tomatoes, similar to the tax placed on cucumbers, squashes and beans.

"Botanically it's a fruit, legally it's a vegetable," said Sen. Ellen Karcher, who is co-sponsoring the Senate version of the bill.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://myfnm.dodmedia.mil/>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2005

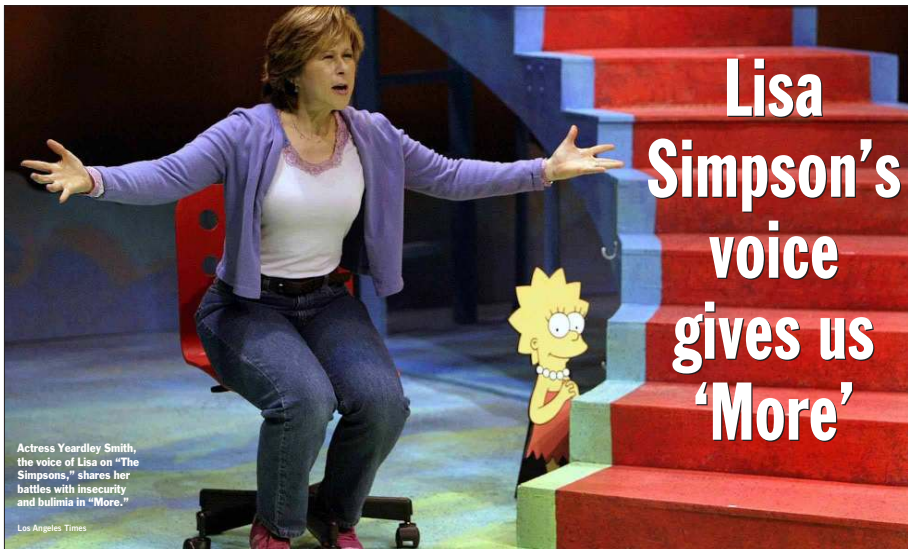
| AFN-FAMILY | | AFN-MOVIE | AFN-EUROPE | AFN-KOREA | AFN-PAKS | AFN-SPORTS | SPECTRUM | AFN-PACIFIC |
|------------|--|---|------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 9:00 | Stanley | Movie "Miracle on the Mountain: The Kincaid Family Story" (2000, Adventure) Family | Dr. Phil | Jeopardy! | Hardball With Chris Matthews | NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped) | 30-Minute Meals | Jeopardy! |
| 9:30 | Saga-Slammees Cat | | | | | | Food 911 | Headline News |
| 10:00 | Arthur "The Elmer" (E) | | 8:48 Oprah Winfrey | ESPN | The O'Reilly Factor | | Sensible Chic | ESPN |
| 10:00 | Reading Rainbow (E) | | (38) Guiding Light | Advisory Block | | | Fashion Line | Police Report |
| 11:00 | Saga-Slammees Cat | (43) Movie *** "The Untouchables" (2003, Drama) Catherine Deneuve, Paul Giamatti, Catherine Deneuve, Paul Giamatti, A schenning address: a woman manipulates the lives of others. | (17) General Hospital | Arrested Development | Nightly Business Report | SportsCenter | E! News Live | The King of Queens |
| 11:30 | Stanley "The Red Couple" | | Headline News | The Casino | Fox and Friends First | | | Arrested Development |
| 12:00 | Dora the Explorer | | Jeopardy! | | | | Grifflands | Extreme Makeover: Home Edition |
| 12:30 | The Wiggles | Movie *** "On Thin Ice" (2000, Comedy) Nicholas Thomas, Calahan, Alan Thicke. | Dr. Phil | The District "Hollow Spaces" | American Morning | NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped) | Charm'd "Charm'd Again" (Part 2 of 2) | Lost "Raised by Another" |
| 13:30 | Dragon Tales (E) | | Dr. Phil | Pacific Report | | | | Police Report |
| 14:00 | Blue's Clues | | Sylvester & Tweedy | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | | | Strong Medicine "Wednesday Night Fever" | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno |
| 14:30 | Barney & Friends (E) | (43) Movie *** "The Outer Limits" (1999, Sci-Fi) Robert M. Johnson, Theorem. A young man leaves his orphanage home to find himself. | Dr. Phil | Star Trek: Voyager | | | Any Day Now "It's a Good Thing I'm Not Black" | Late Show With David Letterman |
| 15:00 | Funnies Home Videos | | SpongeBob SquarePants | The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson | FOX News | SportsCenter | Law & Order "All My Children" | The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson |
| 16:00 | Pokemon "Stage Fight" | | Batman Beyond "Heroes" | Headline News | FOX News | NBA Fastbreak | The Simpsons | Dennis Miller |
| 16:30 | Yu-Gi-Oh! | | Headline News | AFN News Assignment | DaySide With Linda Vester | ESPN | Everybody Loves Raymond | Countdown With Keith Urban |
| 17:00 | Doug A wedding celebration | Inside the Actors Studio "Chris Rock's Theatrical Chaos Theory" | AFN Evening News | Countdown With Keith Urban | | SportsCenter | American Idol | Countdown With Keith Urban |
| 17:30 | The Wild Thornberrys | Coming Attractions | Headline News | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | | NBA Fastbreak | The Simpsons | Dennis Miller |
| 18:00 | The Fairly OddParents | Entertainment Tonight | AFN Evening News | Countdown With Keith Urban | | ESPN | Everybody Loves Raymond | Countdown With Keith Urban |
| 18:30 | Rugrats | Movie *** "Exit Wounds" (2001, Action) Steven Seagal, DMX, Isaac Washington. | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 19:00 | Even Stevens | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 19:30 | Kenan & Kel | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 20:00 | Gilmore Girls Lorelei and a sneak out of the health spa. | (43) Movie *** "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" (1998) Angela Bassett, Taye Diggs. A middle-aged workaholic rediscovers her passionate side. | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 21:00 | Degrassi: Next | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 21:30 | Degrassi: Next | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 22:00 | The Cooley Show | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 23:00 | Movie Improvement | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 23:30 | Touched by an Angel "True Confessions" | Movie *** "Charlie's Angels" (2000) Cameron Diaz, Cameron Diaz, Cameron Diaz. | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 00:00 | Doug (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 00:30 | Rocket Power (Part 2 of 3) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 1:00 | The Fairly OddParents | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 1:30 | Rugrats Medieval Fair | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 2:00 | Even Stevens | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 2:30 | Kenan & Kel | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 3:00 | Gilmore Girls Lorelei and a sneak out of the health spa. | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 3:30 | Degrassi: Next | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 4:00 | Degrassi: Next | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 4:30 | Degrassi: Next | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 5:00 | Seamless Street (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 5:30 | Degrassi: Next | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 6:00 | Barney & Friends (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 6:30 | Clifford the Big Red Dog (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 7:00 | Dragon Tales (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 7:30 | Bob the Builder | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 8:00 | The Wiggles | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 8:30 | Dora the Explorer | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 9:00 | Stanley | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 9:30 | Saga-Slammees Cat | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 10:00 | Arthur "U.W. Van Dusen" (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 10:30 | Reading Rainbow (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 11:00 | Saga-Slammees Cat | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 11:30 | Stanley | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 12:00 | Dora the Explorer | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 13:00 | Bob the Builder | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 13:30 | Dragon Tales (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 14:00 | Blue's Clues | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 14:30 | Barney & Friends (E) | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 15:00 | Funnies Home Videos | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 15:30 | Growing Pains "Superstar" | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 16:00 | Pokemon | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 16:30 | Yu-Gi-Oh! "Slippery" | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 17:00 | Doug "Doug's Last Birthday" | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 17:30 | The Wild Thornberrys | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 18:00 | The Fairly OddParents | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 18:30 | Rugrats | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 19:00 | Unfabulous "The Picture" | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 19:30 | All That "Jermolov Live Heist" | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 20:00 | "No Heaven" "The Kid Is Out of the Picture" | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 20:30 | Barney's Clues | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 21:00 | Barney's Clues | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 21:30 | Sabrina, the Teenage Witch | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 22:00 | Sabrina, the Teenage Witch | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 22:30 | The Cooley Show | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 23:00 | Movie Improvement | | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |
| 23:30 | Touched by an Angel "Quality Time" | Movie *** "Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach" | Arrested Development | Access Hollywood | FOX News | College Basketball Big East Tournament First Round - Teams TBA From Madison Square Garden in New York, (Live) | American Idol | Access Hollywood |

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005

You only live once... See the world.
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STARS & STRIPES
Your Thursday Magazine

FACES



Actress Yeardley Smith, the voice of Lisa on "The Simpsons," shares her battles with insecurity and bulimia in "More."

Los Angeles Times

Yeardley Smith steps out of her alter-ego's shadow with a one-woman show

BY LYNN HEFFLEY
Los Angeles Times

By most measures, Yeardley Smith is a success: an Emmy Award, a reported \$5.5 million salary, a place in entertainment history as part of TV's longest-running sitcom.

Dressed in jeans, T-shirt and blue cardigan, Smith easily blends in with other main denizens. But what's in that paper bag she's toting?

"I washed my purse last night, and it was still damp this morning," she offers.

Ah, earnest and obscure. An explanation worthy of Smith's animated alter ego: brainy, soulful and quirky Lisa, whom she voices on "The Simpsons."

At a yarn shop and a tea import store, where she's a regular, the owner and staff greet Smith with easy familiarity. But other customers remain unaware that there's a TV star in the house, even when Smith's kid-like voice ("my mother always said my voice could cut glass") shifts naturally into Lisa Simpson's plaintive, higher register.

"That's life for an invisible celebrity.

It's one of the greatest jobs in the uni-

verse," she says. "And I feel deeply connected to Lisa. I'm so proud of her."

And yet, the anonymity Smith experiences as the voice of a cartoon character, while comfortable, is peculiarly chafing for someone who would "never, ever take the liberty of resting on my laurels in any way, shape or form."

So much so, that she is stepping out of her comfort zone with an intensely personal one-woman show. Called "More," it is a serio-comic chronicle of what has been a lifetime quest for enough fame, enough love — and enough food — to assuage Smith's "sucking vortex of need" to succeed.

Directed by Tony Award-winning actor Judith Ivey, "More" ran off-Broadway last year; a revised version of the show opened Feb. 18 for a three-week run at the Falcon Theatre in Burbank, Calif.

"It was important that it be funny, but I had to dig deep to do it well," Smith says. "It's the hardest work I've ever done."

Among the intimacies she shares within

a framework of whimsy and salty humor is her secret battle with bulimia.

"I didn't have time for hangovers, so I was bulimic instead. For 25 years. And nobody ever knew. It was easier to keep under wraps than falling down drunk. It gave you this incredible sense of control, and boy, you thrived on that illusion."

"More" isn't about "chest-pounding," Ivey insists. "It's whimsical and wacky with a universality to it, whether you're bulimic or not, whether you're an actor or not."

Smith seemed well on her way to adoration and fame when, at 19, she made it to Broadway, appearing in the 1984 production of Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing." That early breakthrough was followed by big parts in forgettable films, small parts in Oscar-winning films ("City Slickers" and "As Good as It Gets") and regular roles in sitcoms ("Dharma & Greg" and "Herman's Head").

Stardom without the face time Smith

craved came in 1987, a year after she had appeared in Terry Garner's play "Livin' on Salvation Street," at the Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles. "I think 12 people, total, came to see it," Smith says.

Fortunately, one of them was "Simpsons" producer Bonnie Platta, who remembered Smith when casting Matt Groening's animated clips for "The Tracy Ullman Show," where "The Simpsons" began.

Over lunch at Fox Studios, after recording new Lisa lines, Smith muses that being able to reveal herself so publicly marks a turning point for her. She's still angst-ridden — she'll never work again, she'll cause hurt feelings by choosing one knitting class over another, her show will bomb and damage the theater's reputation — but she's learning to focus on what she has accomplished, "not on what's undone."

Her marriage of two years (to actor Daniel Erickson) has helped. So has an eating disorder recovery program. Her voice-over Emmy, once a symbol of her failure as an actor with a body as well as a voice, has been rescued from a closet shelf. It appears on stage with her, as does a cut-out of Lisa Simpson, who she says always makes her happy.

"Think of all that energy that I've wasted being this hard on myself," she says.

Tucker seeks protection

Country singer Tanya Tucker has filed an order of protection against her former fiancé, whom Tucker claims has harassed and assaulted her.

Tucker, 46, alleges that Jerry Laseter, 43, has harassed her before shows, grabbed her by the throat, given her a black eye and threatened her. The former couple have a daughter, Layla, 5.

The order was signed by a William-



Tucker

son County, Tenn., judge on Thursday. A court hearing is scheduled for April 1. Laseter denied the allegations Friday, saying he had never been physically abusive in any way.

Princess gets fairy tale nod

Her marriage to a crown prince was like a fairy tale, so it was fitting when the Australian-born crown princess of Denmark was named as an honorary Hans Christian Andersen ambassador.

Princess Mary, a former Sydney real estate worker who married Danish Crown Prince Frederik in a lavish ceremony in Copenhagen last year, will promote the Dan-

ish author's works in Australia as part of her new role. Born in 1805, Andersen is known for classics such as "The Little Mermaid" and "The Ugly Duckling."

Teen's cameo wish granted

A Wisconsin teen who has had four heart surgeries spent the day recently at a hospital of a different kind.

Kassie Crose, 19, of Green Bay, had a walk-on role on the ABC soap opera "General Hospital." Plus, she got to meet actor Maurice Benard. The Florida-based Kids Wish Network fulfilled Crose's wish application based on the teen's long battle with congenital heart disease.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



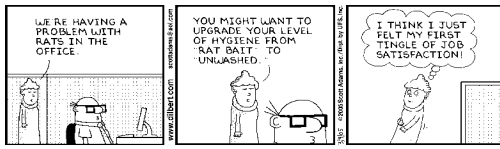
Spider Man



Blondie



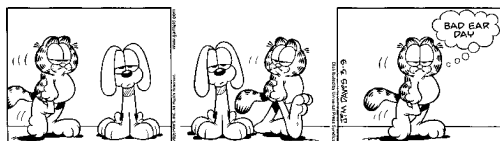
Dilbert



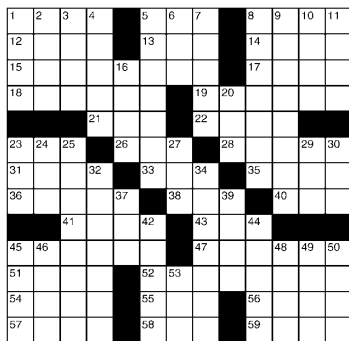
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Deeds

5 "The Amazing Race" aid

8 Blue hue

12 Entice

13 Raw rock

14 "SNL" alumna

15 Pulpit figure

17 Anatomical network

18 "A Streetcar ..." role

19 Earlier, poetically

21 Spread seed

22 Galvanizing material

23 Back talk

26 Ring decision

28 Macabre cartoonist Wilson

31 Journey

33 Perch

35 Host Jay

36 Pasts material

38 Diary

40 Disencumber

41 Appear

43 Pigeon's comment

45 Subtle distinction

47 Man's home?

51 Wan

52 Major's precursor

54 "Got it"

55 Stolen

56 Pavarotti offering

57 "Hawaii Five-O" star Jack

Down

1 European range

2 Brusque

3 Genealogy chart

4 Crofts' partner

5 Mostlly shaved hairstyles

6 Exist

7 "White Men Can't Jump" cast member

8 Near the kidneys

9 Beverage, often

10 Golden Rule word

11 From the start

16 What a stent will prevent

20 Predetermine

23 British "inc."

24 Rage

25 Medium-sized dog

27 Lubricate

29 Singer DiFranco

30 Head movement

32 Intoxicated

34 Harpsichord melody

37 Bumped into

39 Capricorn

42 Legends

44 Felix's roomie

45 Apprehend

46 "And what — rare as ..."

48 By way of, to bards

49 Maui mementos

50 History chapters

53 Go like a bunny

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-9

CRYPTOQUIP

JAN CGC FTUNZ JR YNVXN
JAN PRXCNCJ, LGJ TAN
IRGCZ KJ ZKIIPGYJ JR

TAVUN JAN AVLKJ
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A POST OFFICE BURNED DOWN, I PRESUME IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A CASE OF BLACKMAIL.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: I equals F

New HIV strain should sound alarm

Dear Abby: The recent news of a possible new strain of HIV that is drug-resistant to three of the four classes of anti-HIV drugs and may progress to AIDS in months rather than years, should provide a wake-up call to those who are not practicing safer sex and/or are still sharing needles and syringes.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: The recent news of a possible new strain of HIV that is drug-resistant to three of the four classes of anti-HIV drugs and may progress to AIDS in months rather than years, should provide a wake-up call to those who are not practicing safer sex and/or are still sharing needles and syringes.

Time after time, I hear young people say they're not worried about being exposed to HIV/AIDS because, should they get infected, they can take the appropriate medicine and they'll be fine. Unfortunately, they could be dead wrong. If they become infected, the medicine they will have to take can cause serious side effects and must be taken for the rest of their lives. Also, not all people benefit from the medications, especially those who are unfortunate enough to be infected with a strain of virus that's already resistant to one or more

Dear Abby: I'm 16 and a sophomore in high school. I have

classes of drugs. Abby, people tend to understand that HIV is not spread through the air, or from shaking hands or hugging someone who has the virus. If you have unprotected sex or share needles and syringes you could become infected. It's up to all of us to protect ourselves and our partners.

— **Mervyn R. Silverman, M.D., Former President, American Foundation for AIDS Research**
Dear Dr. Silverman: I agree that it's critically important for folks to protect themselves and their loved ones from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). In order to do that, they must act responsibly. I hope the announcement will remind everyone about a subject that seems to have been forgotten in the last decade.

Dear Abby: I'm 16 and a sophomore in high school. I have

been struggling with my weight for two years. I have tried Weight Watchers and other weight-loss programs, and I try not to eat between meals or consume a lot of junk food — but I just can't stop.

My parents keep pressuring me to lose 40 pounds. Even my friends say I should lose weight. They say if I do, my crush would notice me more. Can you give me any tips for losing weight?

— **Chubby in Cleveland**
Dear Chubby: Everything has a price. If you want to lose weight, the price you'll have to pay is abstaining from high-carb, high-fat, empty-calorie food for a while.

Losing weight is like banking: If you eat more calories than you "spend," you'll have fat in your "savings account." If you spend more calories than you save, you'll gradually become lean and mean.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to her on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VAREN

VOYEC

GLUTLE

RAYLEY

www.jumble.com

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUAIL JUDGE PETITE CHALET

Answer: Known to leave when teenagers have their friends over — PEACE AND QUIET

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME BY HENRI ARNOLD AND MIKE AGRION

We need every able body to help prevent a flood.



WHAT IT TOOK TO SANDBAG THE TOWN AGAINST THE RISING RIVER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Carefully suggest ADD treatment

Dear Annie: My son-in-law might have ADD. He exhibits nervousness and impulsive behavior. While having a conversation with him, he is not really engaged but instead is formulating his next question, which is often totally off-top. He makes out-of-the-blue, off-the-wall comments.

Annie's Mailbox



own agenda to promote. Your son-in-law may not have ADD, but if you feel you must do something, give your daughter the address of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (www.add.org), P.O. Box 543, Pottstown, PA 19464, and tell her she might want to check it out. The rest is up to her.

You are treading a fine line between caring and interfering, but you know that. A lot depends upon how likely your daughter is to listen to you, and how receptive her husband will be if she brings up the subject. Please allow her to handle it.

Dear Annie: I soon will be 16 years old, and I have many close friends whom I e-mail almost every night, including one who lives in Texas and another in Hawaii.

I usually get up on the computer and instant-message after finishing my homework, but lately, my

dad has been coming into the room, saying he knows to send some e-mails. I am important, so I give him the computer to do his work, but afterward, he sits and plays Solitaire for a really long time. I can't get back on the computer for hours, and my friends are often asleep or busy by then.

I don't know what, exactly, to say to my dad. I know his e-mails take precedence, and there's nothing wrong with Solitaire, but my friends are important to me, and I'm starting to miss them.

— **Alone, But Not Lonely**
Dear Not Lonely: There's no reason Dad can't work out a schedule so you each get to use the computer.

Here's how to say it: "Dad, could you please set aside a specific time when I can use the computer every night? I promise when the time is up, I will get off immediately so you can use it."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, column editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Crossword Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

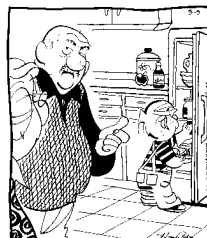
Family Circus



"Who wants to guess what PJ drew a picture of?"



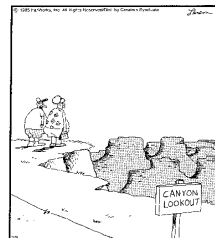
Dennis the Menace



"WHATEVER HE LIKES, BE SURE TO TAKE IT OFF OUR GROCERY LIST."

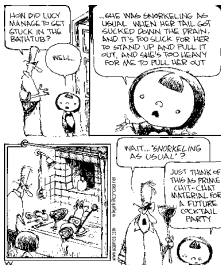
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"I dunno. We're just so far up, I think this would be better on the tube."

Non Sequitur



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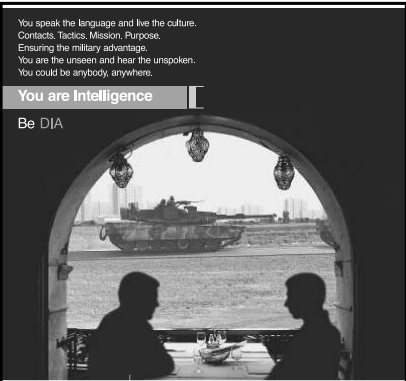
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Woods back on top, but for how long?

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Getting back to No. 1 in the world wasn't easy for Tiger Woods.

It took him eight tournaments over six months to nudge past Vijay Singh in the world ranking. And it required a Herculean effort against Phil Mickelson to win the Ford Championship at Doral, including some clutch shots that will be talked about the rest of the year.

Woods drove the 347-yard 16th green on Saturday. He twice reached the 663-yard 12th hole in two shots and made a 25-foot eagle putt in the final round to take the lead for the first time.

He made a 30-foot putt on the 17th hole that turned out to be the difference. And his 63-66 was the lowest weekend by a winner in the 44-year history at Doral.

"That was special," Woods said of his duel with Mickelson.

The last time Woods took over No. 1 in the world ranking, he won a memorable duel by making a clutch putt on the 17th hole at Medinah to beat 19-year-old Sergio Garcia in the final major of the millennium.

Woods then stayed on top for the next 264 weeks.

This time, it might not be that easy.

His reign could be over at the end of this week, or perhaps the end of the month.

"He's certainly going to have increased competition that he hasn't had in past years," Jack Nicklaus said Monday. "You heard me a couple of years ago. What will happen to Tiger? I said a lot of his competition had not shown up yet, or guys playing against him will raise the level of their golf game."

Nicklaus quickly ticked off the names of Mickelson, Singh and Retief Goosen, all of whom won majors last year, and all of whom were in the top eight at Doral. Half way around the world, Ernie Els produced a dramatic finish of his own by making an 18-foot eagle on the last hole to win the Dubai Desert Classic.

Call it golf's version of March Madness.

"It's a great week for golf," said Zach Johnson, who tied for third with Singh at Doral. "This is what the spectators want. They want these kind of duels. They will have a lot more of them. Tiger raised the bar. And now everybody is starting to come toward him."

After Woods won the '99 PGA Championship, he ended the season with four straight victories, then reeled off one



Back at No. 1 in the world rankings, Tiger Woods will have a harder time remaining there than he did before.

of the greatest seasons in golf. Not only did he win nine tournaments and three straight majors in 2000, he won by record margins and left everyone so far behind that it appeared he would be No. 1 until retirement.

Now the list of challengers is longer than ever.

Singh might be able to return to No. 1 this week if he wins the Honda Classic.

Els' victory in Dubai was his first of the year and puts him in a good frame of mind on the road to the Masters. The Big Easy is close enough that he could be No. 1 by the end of the month.

Mickelson lost another final-round showdown with

Woods, although he still might be the hottest player in golf. Coming off a five-shot victory in Phoenix and a wire-to-wire win at Pebble Beach, Lefty spent 10 consecutive rounds atop the leaderboard in stroke play and was shocked the streak didn't stretch to 11.

His back-to-back birdies after Woods pulled ahead for the first time was evidence that Mickelson is not one to wilt. He had a 30-foot birdie chip on the final hole that lipped out of the cup.

"I felt like I was playing better than anybody," Mickelson said. "I just knew I was going to win, and when I didn't, it was a great sign in the face. Because I'm going to work my tail off to salvage a couple more shots. When I come back to The Players Championship and the Masters, I'm going to be ready."

On the surface, Woods looks as dynamic as ever.

After going four years without a comeback victory, Woods now has two in a row. He came from two shots down at Torrey Pines against Tom Lehman, then made up a two-shot deficit against Mickelson in the final round at Doral.

Woods beat Mickelson, but not without a tremendous effort.

"That shows you what kind of competitor Phil is," Woods said. "Don't forget what he did on that back nine. That was impressive to watch."

Equally impressive are the first two months of the PGA Tour season.

Singh won the Sony Open with a birdie on the final hole, after Els had closed with a 62. Woods and Mickelson each have won twice.

And while Els squandered two chances in Hawaii, the victory in Dubai was important.

The only question mark right now is Singh.

He missed the cut at Pebble Beach and was eliminated in the second round of the Match Play Championship. Singh hit the ball beautifully at Doral, but simply couldn't make enough putts. Still, it was his first top 10 finish since Hawaii.

Singh slipped out a side door without talking about his final round Sunday. He is the only player among the top five who is playing this week in the Honda Classic.

Mickelson is taking two weeks off, from some of a skiing trip with his family in Colorado.

Woods will take off next week before resuming his road to the Masters — Bay Hill, The Players Championship, a week to practice and then on to Augusta, where he could find a large crowd of players capable of stopping him.

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Nicklaus likely to skip Masters

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Jack Nicklaus had planned to squeeze in a few trips to Augusta National this month, making sure his 65-year-old body was fit and his game was good enough to compete in the Masters.

Now, the Masters is the last thing on his mind.

"I think with what's happened to us in our family, my time is going to be spent in much different ways," Nicklaus said Monday, his first public comments since his 17-month-old grandson drowned in a hot tub. "That's the most important thing right now. And I think it will be the most important thing for a long time."

Nicklaus said his chances of playing the Masters are "between slim and none," although he plans to be at Augusta National for the Champions Dinner, maybe even the Par 3 Tournament.

He still would like to play the British Open at St. Andrews in July since this is his last year of eligibility and because his son, Steve, wants to caddy for him.

It was Steve Nicklaus' son, Jake, who drowned Tuesday night.

Nicklaus sat before a small

gathering Monday morning at The Loxahatchee Club, not as the steady-eyed winner of 18 major championships, but as a teary-eyed grandfather who had lost one of his 17 grandchildren.

He declined to cancel the appearance, saying it was the right thing to do.

"Life has got to move on. Life is for the living," Nicklaus said. "It hurts, but you go on. You make commitments, and you've got to do them."

But he remains so shaken that he left a statement on each chair that expressed his grief and appreciation about the love and support, hopeful it would limit the questions during a one-hour interview.

His voice cracked only once, when he mentioned that Steve's wife, Krista, is 3½ months pregnant and probably will have the baby shortly after the British Open.

"Obviously, that little baby she has inside her is very important," Nicklaus said.

Nicklaus is perhaps the greatest champion golfer has known, winning a record 18 majors over 25 seasons. But he has always taken more pride in his family.

There are the famous stories of

how he fainted when his wife, Barbara, gave birth to each of their five children. There was that memorable photo of him scooping up a year-old Gary after a round in the 1973 PGA Championship. Gary Nicklaus later played two years on the PGA Tour.

And when Nicklaus had his left hip replaced in 1999 — causing him to miss the Masters for the first time — he said it was to improve his quality of life so he could remain active with his grandchildren, not to help him play another major.

"As you can imagine, the last few days have been an overwhelmingly difficult and trying one for my entire family," Nicklaus said in his statement. "The loss of our precious, 17-month-old grandson Jake was devastating, and it is a loss that is impossible to put into words."

Nicklaus had an easier time talking about his future in golf.

"I have absolutely zero plans as it relates to the game of golf," he said. "If I do not play at Augusta, it would be only the third time since he first played in 1959. After the hip replacement operation in 1999, he missed 2002 because of lingering back problems."

Nicklaus has not played the British Open since 2000 at St. Andrews.

Giambi helps Yankees bop Sox

Hudson makes scoreless debut with Braves

The Associated Press

Jason Giambi quieted the cautious Red Sox crowd with his first homer of spring training. Tim Lincecum and Mariano Rivera silenced their opponents with their dominant pitches.

Spring training roundup

With fans chanting "Steroids! Steroids! Steroids!", Giambi hit a solo shot in the fifth inning of the New York Yankees' 9-2 victory over Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.

The public face of baseball's steroids controversy was booed before each of his five at-bats — he finished 2-for-5 and is 3-for-12 this spring.

Giambi took it all in stride. He gave a mass interview, got a hug from Kevin Millar, took batting practice and signed autographs for 25 minutes.

Giambi, one of only a handful of Yankees regulars who made the 2-hour bus ride for the split-squad game, was prepared to face Red Sox manager, Giambi said he turned out the taunts.

"Tonight was a good night for him," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I'm sure he feels good about it. I know we were pleased because he didn't let the emotion of where we were and who we were playing against interfere with what he was working on."

At Tampa Bay, Fla., Rivera sparked in his first spring appearance for the Yankees, working one perfect inning in a 3-1 split-squad loss to the Cleveland Indians.

"He didn't even break a sweat," Torre said before heading to Fort Myers.

Rivera threw 10 pitches, seven for strikes, and retired the side on a grounder to short and two fly balls to right.

The right-hander changed his offseason program in hopes of rejuvenating himself after the Yankees' collapse against Boston in the American League Championship Series. He feels like he accomplished that objective.

"Mentally and physically I was tired," Rivera said, explaining the decision to change his routine. "I worked out, but I didn't throw. It's not normal for me. I just felt like I needed it, so I did."

Making his debut with the Braves, Hudson worked two scoreless innings in a 5-0 victory over the New York Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla. He threw 21 of 29 pitches



Amid derisive chants, Jason Giambi (above) had a solo homer and two hits in the Yankees' 9-2 split-squad victory over the Red Sox on Monday.

for strikes and got four groundouts, showing off the sharp stuff that made him a huge winner with Oakland the past six years.

"It was good to finally get it out of the way," Hudson said. "I was just mainly trying to locate my fastball, stay down in the zone."

The Braves sent three players to the Athletics in a trade for Hudson last December, and he agreed to a \$4.7 million, four-year contract extension last Tuesday.

Atlanta's new closer Dan Kolb followed with a perfect inning.

Kolb was acquired in an offseason trade with Milwaukee, allowing the Braves to shift John Smoltz back into the rotation.

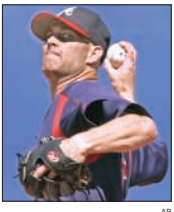
"The first day is a little rough, the adrenaline," Kolb said. "Especially when you get traded and you're replacing pretty much a legend in Atlanta. I probably put a little too much pressure on myself."

In other games:

Blue Jays 12, Indians (5) 9: At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia likely won't start the Indians' season opener after an MRI showed the left-hander strained a muscle in his right side. Sabathia has been told not to throw for a week.

Kevin Millwood, making his first start for Cleveland, gave up five runs and seven hits in one inning. Miguel Batista pitched two hitless innings for the Blue Jays.

Nationals 6, Tigers 5: At Lake...



Tim Hudson pitched two scoreless innings, throwing 21 of 29 pitches for strikes, in Atlanta's 5-0 victory Monday over the Mets.

land, Fla., Dean Palmer, attempting a comeback after retiring last year because of neck and shoulder injuries, hit a two-run homer off Sun-woo Kim for Detroit.

Washington's Tony Armas Jr. allowed three runs on five hits and two walks while striking out two over three innings.

Athletics 5, Diamondbacks (5) 0: At Phoenix, Rich Harden pitched three scoreless innings and struck out three for Oakland.

Eric Byrnes hit a bases-loaded double off Russ Ortiz in the first.

Cubs 9, Rangers 4: At Surprise, Ariz., Greg Maddux gave up three hits and allowed two earned runs in two innings in his spring debut.

Alfonso Soriano, who missed the last two weeks of 2004 with a torn left hamstring, was limping in the locker room after playing six innings and going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts.

He played second base for the first time this spring.

Padres 4, Angels 0: At Tempe, Ariz., Adam Eaton was the latest San Diego starter to impress, throwing three scoreless innings and allowing three hits and walking one.

Brian Giles went 3-for-3, and Ramon Hernandez and Sean Burroughs had two hits each for the Padres.

Angels starter Jarrod Washburn pitched two shutout innings.

Cardinals 6, Dodgers 1: At Jupiter, Fla., Albert Pujols hit two home runs in a hard battle with the Cardinals. In eight at-bats this spring, Pujols has three homers and two doubles.

Jeff Weaver threw the home run pitches and allowed four runs and six hits in three innings.

Phillies 9, Astros 8: At Clearwater, Fla., Billy Wagner allowed two hits during a scoreless eighth inning against his former team. Pat Burrell hit a two-run homer, and Placido Polanco and Jimmy Rollins also homered for Philadelphia.

Dodgers (5) 4, Marlins (5) 2: At Jupiter, Fla., Carlos Delgado was scratched from his debut with Florida because of tendinitis in the left elbow.

Marlins right-hander Josh Beckett struck out seven over four scoreless innings.

Remodeled Braves look to Smoltz for home improvement

BY BILL MADDEN

New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — For the past two days, the New York Mets have had a sneak preview of John Schuerholz's latest reinvention of the Atlanta Braves. And for starters, they found it reminiscent of all the previous teams.

You talk Braves and inevitably you're talking superior starting pitching, the driving force behind those unprecedented 13 straight first-place finishes under the Schuerholz-Bobby Cox management team — be it John Smoltz, Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, Kevin Millwood or Tim Hudson doing the driving.

Or, as the key element of this year's makeover, John Smoltz again.

On Monday it was Hudson, the celebrated offseason acquisition from the Oakland A's, making his Braves debut, an uneventful two-inning

workout. "Pitch effort that he said 'wasn't at all what they're going to see during the regular season.'"

We knew that, of course. Down here, No. 1 starters of Hudson's stature usually don't get serious with their repertoire and appearance until their fourth or fifth spring start.

On the other hand, Smoltz, who has thrown two shutout innings against the Mets on Sunday and begged Cox to no avail for

third, is approaching each start like a man in a hurry to prove himself worthy of top-of-the-rotation status. It is understandable being that Smoltz has not known what it is to start a ballgame since June 9, 2001, or pitch 200 innings in a season, as per the expectations of a No. 1 starter, since 1997.

The converted team closer since late-season '01, Smoltz, approaching 38, is attempting a "reverse" of extraordinary proportions.

"The honest," said Cox, "I can't think of anyone who's ever gone from starter to closer and back to starter again — at least anyone of John's caliber. I know Hoyt Wilhelm did it back in the '60s, but he was a knuckleballer and it was an easy transition. But the fact was we lost three of our starters (Russ Ortiz, Jaret Wright and Paul Byrd) over the winter and we needed someone to replace them. Who better than John?"

Well, in his prime, probably nobody. But as a starter, that was probably eight years ago and, in their exuberance of having him back in their rotation, no one around the Braves dares mention

Commentary

it was a career-threatening elbow injury that prompted Smoltz to take on the less-taxing role in the bullpen.

"It's funny," said Glavine, who made his spring debut as well Monday against his old team, "everyone's getting all gung ho about Smoltz being back in the rotation, as if it's automatic he'll pitch 250 innings and win 20 games. I'm not saying he isn't capable, but it's certainly not that easy."

According to Cox, Smoltz underwent the most comprehensive conditioning program of his career this offseason and reported to camp the strongest he's ever been. Certainly no one has ever questioned Smoltz's determination, confidence or competitive fire.

"It's all about the person and how he takes care of himself," said Hudson. "Everybody knows what kind of mental makeup John has. He's just like Roger Clemens and Randy Johnson. They're two of the greatest pitchers in baseball and two of the oldest. What does that say? I don't see how he can't do it."

Even Glavine concedes that if his old stablemate is able to make the transition and be even a solid No. 2 to Hudson's No. 1, the Braves once again will be a formidable force in the NL East.

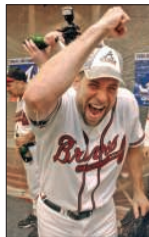
"If he's back," said Glavine, "he's a chance to really be something."

If he's back, echoed Hudson, "this is the best rotation (along with Mike Hampton, John Thomson and Horacio Ramirez, who's coming back from offseason arthroscopic shoulder surgery) I've ever been a part of."

Considering the rotation he just left in Oakland included Barry Zito, Mark Mulder and Rich Harden, that's saying something. Cox feels the same way, but tempers his enthusiasm with realism.

"We have no idea if John can pitch 200 innings," said the Braves manager. "It's easy to be against, although if you do, you have to know Smoltz is a pretty special guy. The way I see it, if he's gonna blow his arm out, what difference does it make if it's in the pen or as a starter?"

A valid point — which only emphasizes just how high the stakes are for the Braves in this gamble they've chosen to take with their erstwhile ace.



John Smoltz's transition from closer to starter will be a key factor in whether the Braves will be celebrating a 14th consecutive division title.

Cards, Lions go shopping

Arizona picks up Linemen, QB Warner; Detroit adds two S Kennedy, TE Pollard

The Associated Press

Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green dipped into the free-agent market for the third time in five days, signing defensive end Chile Okefor to go with quarterback Kurt Warner and offensive tackle Oliver Ross.

"I've been a big believer since the day I got here that Arizona has all the ingredients to attract the top NFL free agents, and our three signings are a great indication of that," said Green, in his second year with Arizona.

Okefor provides a strong upgrade for Arizona. He had a career-high 8½ sacks for Seattle last season after recording eight previous seasons. He had two sacks and four tackles in the Seahawks' 27-20 loss to St. Louis in an NFL wild-card game.

Okefor, who also visited Denver, said during his visit to Arizona's headquarters on Saturday that it was obvious Green is serious about shaking the Cardinals' dormant injury.

"From playing against them and watching on film, there is some heart there," he said.

The Cardinals also re-signed running back Troy Hambrick to a two-year contract.

Detroit signed two players on Monday, landing hard-hitting safety Kenoy Kennedy and tight end Marcus Pollard.

Kennedy, who spent his entire five-year career with Denver, was about to board a flight to Miami to continue his free-agent tour, but had second thoughts and returned to the Lions' practice facility to sign a contract while the team was introducing Pollard.

"They were calling my name and saying that I had to get on the plane or I was going to get left behind," Kennedy said. "I told them to go ahead and leave me. I decided I wanted to be a Lion."

Kennedy was suspended for one game in 2002 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Miami's Chris Chambers, and has been fined for similar plays at least three other times.

"I think I bring a presence," he said. "Receivers are looking for me, and they might develop alligator arms."

Kennedy has four career interceptions.

"I think we got better today, and Kenoy is a big part of that," Lions coach Steve Mariucci said.

Pollard caught six of Peyton Manning's record 49 TD passes last season with Indianapolis.

"Until a couple weeks ago, we didn't even expect that Marcus would be available, so we feel very good about adding him to the roster," team president Matt Milien said. "He brings experience, an understanding of how to win, and some great hands."

Pollard spent 10 seasons with Indianapolis. Last season, he caught 29 passes for 309 yards and six touchdowns. He missed three games with leg injuries.

Pollock back to back with Johnson signed a one-year contract to stay with the Cincinnati Bengals. Johnson, who set a team mark last season with 1,454 yards rushing, will get \$6.3 million.

He became a free agent March 2, but the Bengals designated him their franchise player, meaning they had to pay him the average of the top five salaries at the position. Johnson is free to negotiate a long-term contract with the team, and says he wants to do that. He



Detroit Lions coach Steve Mariucci, left, and team president Matt Milien, right, flank new signing Kenoy Kennedy, a hard-hitting safety who has spent his five-year NFL career with the Denver Broncos.

was paid \$1.8 million in 2004.

The deal allows the Bengals to keep Johnson while they see whether Chris Perry, their top draft choice last year, will develop. Perry was sidelined by injuries for much of his rookie season.

The Dolphins signed two-time Pro Bowl player Kevin Carter to a five-year deal. A 10-year NFL veteran, Carter spent the past four seasons with Tennessee, but was released by the Titans in a salary-cap move.

The 6-foot-5, 290-pound Carter never has missed a game, totaling 598 tackles, 86 sacks, nine fumble recoveries and 16 forced fumbles. He earned Pro Bowl trips in 1999 and 2002, and a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams in 2000.

The Dolphins also cut wide receiver David Boston, who failed a physical. Boston signed last year, but missed the season with a knee injury. In December, he was suspended by the NFL for four games for testing positive for steroids. Boston has denied using steroids.

Cornberback Samari Rolle agreed to a six-year contract with the Baltimore Ravens. Rolle was a 2000 Pro Bowl selection with the Tennessee Titans.

Like new Ravens receiver Derrick Mason and Carter, Rolle was a salary-cap casualty in Tennessee.

In 2000, Rolle intercepted seven passes as the Titans went 13-3. He was limited to a career-low 12 games last season because of an injured left knee that required arthroscopic surgery.

The Bears signed another Tennessee cap cut, right tackle Fred

Miller. The 32-year-old veteran, who hasn't missed a start since 1998, agreed to a five-year deal. The 6-foot-7, 320-pound Miller was cut by the Titans last month so he wouldn't count \$9.32 million against this year's salary cap. Financial terms of his deal with the Bears weren't disclosed.

The Patriots re-signed fullback Patrick Pass, an unrestricted free agent.

The Browns continued to rebuild their offensive line Tuesday, agreeing to terms on a two-year contract with former Tampa Bay guard Casey Coleman.

Coleman, a 26-year-old four-year starter with the Buccaneers, is the second free agent guard signed by the Browns. Last week, the Browns signed former New England guard Joe Andruzzi to a four-year \$9 million deal.

Cornberback Willie Williams re-signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers for two years. The unrestricted free agent started the final 10 regular-season games and both playoff contests after Chad Scott injured his knee Oct. 17.

The Redskins agreed to terms with Mike Sellers, a special teams standout who made 29 tackles in kickoff and punt coverage last season. He also is the backup to starting H-back Chris Cooley.

The Falcons signed safety Rick Coady, another low-key acquisition for the team that reached the NFL title game last season.

Kicker Jay Feely, replaced by Todd Peterson after four years with the Falcons, signed with the Giants.

Chargers' GM gets contract extension

By BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — General manager A.J. Smith was given a three-year contract extension through 2009 on Monday, his reward for helping transform the San Diego Chargers from the NFL's doorman to a playoff team in one season.

Smith originally signed a four-year deal in April 2003, when he was promoted to GM 11 days after his longtime friend and colleague, John Butler, died of cancer.

"A.J. took over under difficult circumstances and has helped build the roster into a playoff contender," said team president Dean Spanos, who in January gave coach Marty Schottenheimer a two-year contract extension through 2007.

"I do believe we've got it going in the right direction," Smith said. "We're very pleased with last year. We chased a Super Bowl and fell short. Hopefully we'll keep banging away at this thing and continue to be in the postseason. Maybe there will be a special win here in there where we win a world championship."

San Diego was an NFL-worst 4-12 in 2003, but won the AFC wild-card game in a 24-17 upset last season to reach the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons. They lost 20-17 in overtime to the New York Jets in a home wild-card game.

Smith has rebuilt the Chargers with two successful drafts and a number of mostly low-key acquisitions through free agency and trades.

"The net result is, we've had a major change in personnel to the point where we have a team where the majority are good character and are team players," Spanos said. "If anybody's proven that chasing high-priced free agents doesn't work, we've proved it in the past."

Last March, Smith rid San Diego's roster of several non-productive but high-priced players who were signed when Butler was GM, including enigmatic wide receiver David Boston and defensive end Marcelus Wiley.

He then deftly turned a snub by Eli Manning into a windfall.

Manning sent word through his father, Archie, that he didn't want the Chargers to draft him No. 1 overall. They did anyway, then traded Manning to the New York Giants for Philip Rivers and three draft picks, including the No. 1 this April.

Smith signed tight end Antonio Gates as a free agent rookie in 2003 and watched him blossom into an All-Pro last season. He acquired wide receiver Keenan McDardell from Tampa Bay at the trading deadline.

NHL labor talks planned for this week

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now the NHL and the players' association will start trying to save next season.

Less than three weeks after commissioner Gary Bettman canceled the 2004-05 NHL season, he invited union executive director Bob Goodenow back to the bargaining table for talks this week.

Countless meetings and proposals weren't enough to end the lockout that began in September, so Bettman wants to get talks going as soon as possible before next season is put in jeopardy.

He contacted Goodenow late last week to request a meeting, and the players' association agreed to get together, NHL chief official Bill Daly said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday.

The date, time and location of the next

round of talks wasn't announced.

It will be the first bargaining session since Feb. 19, when the sides met in a desperate attempt to save the season three days after Bettman canceled it. But even the presence of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux wasn't enough to get owners and players to reach an agreement.

Bettman and Goodenow will take part in this week's meeting, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, after both leaders sat out the last session.

Last week, the NHL board of governors met in New York on the same day more than 150 players got an update from union leadership in Toronto.

Bettman said the board discussed many ways to get next season started on time in October, and didn't rule out the use of replacement players. He said that wasn't a choice he wanted to make, but added the league is com-

mitted to having a season that isn't delayed.

When players emerged from their meeting with union leadership on March 1, they were more inclined to let time pass before re-engaging in talks. Players have lost a season's salary and aren't due to be paid again until October.

Proposed Gatti-Mayweather bout canceled

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A proposed fight between WBC super lightweight champion Arturo Gatti and undefeated challenger Floyd Mayweather Jr. has been scratched.

Donald Tremblay, a spokesman for Gatti's promoter, Main Events Inc., said Mayweather missed a Friday deadline to sign a contract agreeing to fight Gatti on June 11.

Main Events will find another boxer to face Gatti (39-6, 29 knockouts) on that date, Tremblay said.

Mayweather (33-0, 22 knockouts) and his promoter, Top Rank Inc., apparently couldn't agree on how much money he would be guaranteed for the fight, Tremblay said.

Falcons flying high since 6-5 start

Air Force's new coach Mooney has things under control

BY RANDY HOLTZ
Rocky Mountain News

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — This is wrong, all wrong.

College basketball coaches are supposed to be old, crotchety guys, men sporting faces creased with years of worry, edgy men with nervous systems ravaged by the torments of knowing their professional fate is decided by unpredictable youngsters who barely need to shave.

Picture Bob Knight, Jim Calhoun, Gene Keady, tortured souls all.

Chris Mooney does not fit the mold, not even a little bit. He is 32 and looks young-

er. He is pleasant. The requisite intensity is there, yet it is all inside, not on his sleeve for all to see.

But there are different ways to skin this college hoops cat, which Mooney has proved during an Air Force Academy season that further has established the Falcons as one of the feel-good turnaround stories in the sport.

When Mooney took over at Air Force for one of his longtime mentors, promoted from an assistant's job after the departure of Joe Scott to their shared alma mater of Princeton after last season's worst-to-first transformation, the decision was a no-brainer.

Same system, same theories, many of the same players. Still, there was no guarantee Mooney would not drop the ball. As a major-college coach, he was as untested as they come, all youth and ambition.

He has not dropped the ball. He has carried it to the second-finest season in Air Force history, guiding the Falcons to an 18-11 record and the No. 3 seed in the

Mountain West Conference tournament beginning Thursday in Denver.

He has done it with the same kind of attention to detail, the same kind of intelligence and precision that allowed Scott to turn a hopelessly overmatched program into a conference champion and NCAA tournament participant.

Mooney has done it with none of the over-the-top sideline theatrics of Scott, with none of the fiery-eyed, for-all-to-see passion that marked the tenure of his friend and former boss.

Mooney is a Type A personality, Mooney is a Type Z. But there is no arguing with the results.

"First and foremost, he's a natural leader, a guy people want to follow," said A.J. Kuhle, a senior starter on last season's 22-7 team and now a graduate assistant. "It's his overall attitude and approach, the way he carries himself. It's his knowledge, his enthusiasm and his energy."

"He hasn't changed at all from the past few years, except now he's the guy with the final say."

Mooney performed this coaching gig before, but not at the NCAA Division I level. He began at Lansdale Catholic High School in his native Philadelphia, then moved to Beaver College, a small-schools program in Pennsylvania. Then Scott got the Air Force job and brought Mooney with him.

Until this season, Mooney was the behind-the-scenes guy, the enabler, the one keeping time behind the drums as Scott played front man. He watched and learned as Scott led. Now Mooney leads.

To Scott, whose first Princeton team has struggled with a 15-12 record and also-ran status in the Ivy League, Mooney's promotion was an easy decision.

"I knew when he was playing for us at Princeton (when Scott was an assistant to Pete Carril and Bill Carmody) that Chris would be a coach someday," Scott said. "He loved to play and he knew how to play. He understood what it took to win. He understood the plan."

Now it is Mooney's job to get others to understand the plan. His methods of persuasion might be gentler than those of the extroverted Scott, but they work just the same.

"There were a lot of things involved in the transition," Mooney said. "Last season was such a magical season that when it was over, everybody was flying so high. It was like, 'Hey, everything's great.'"

"And then Joe left and people were wondering where we were headed. I thought it was important to get to work right away on the players' mind-sets. I had to know where they were with all this."

"So on the afternoon of the morning press conference (announcing his promotion), we had individual workouts. I talked to every player individually. I wanted to make the transition as seamless as possible."

It was not all sunshine, flowers and chirping birds. Faced with the most challenging nonconference schedule in school history — Scott made stepping up the schedule a top priority — Air Force opened 6-5. When the Falcons lost 73-63 at Iowa on Dec. 28, their third consecutive setback, folks began wondering if Mooney's promotion was the right thing after all.

The young coach didn't panic, the younger players became more comfortable in the system and the veterans ratcheted up their leadership.

Since then, the Falcons have gone 12-6. Their only Mountain West losses have come to conference champion Utah (twice)



Air Force's Tim Anderson draws a charge on Wyoming's Jerry Webb in the Falcons' victory last Saturday, their 18th of the season.

and on the road against Wyoming, New Mexico and UNLV.

The Falcons need to win the conference tournament to get a return trip to the NCAA tournament berth. The way they are playing, it is not outside the realm of possibility. If they cannot pull it off, they likely are headed to the NIT.

The NIT is not to be confused with the NAAs, but through three decades of Air Force basketball misery, any sort of postseason appearance would have been grounds for a parade.

"Nothing has come easy for us," said senior guard Tim Keller, one of three returning starters. "There aren't a lot of teams willing to do what we do. Every night's been a battle."

"But coach Mooney has been there with us all along, making us better. I think he's done an unbelievable job in a very difficult situation. Every guy on this team has the utmost respect for him."

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Despite its rank, BC feels snubbed

AD calls Big East 'petty' for giving trophy to UConn

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

Al Skinner has what other coaches envy: A 24-3 record, two all-Big East players on the roster and an us-against-them snub to motivate his team in the conference tournament.

"If that's what's going to motivate you, then you shouldn't be playing," Skinner said of the Big East's failure to schlep a trophy to the team's regular-season finale at Rutgers. "You've got to bring your own motivation."

Boston College is leaving the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference next season, a decision that created no shortage of bad feelings among fans, players and officials of the jilted league.

But dealings remained essentially cordial until BC athletic director Gene DeFilippo told reporters on Sunday the league was "petty" for giving regular-season co-champion Connecticut — but not BC — a trophy after its finale.

"Our players and coaches had absolutely nothing to do with Boston College's decision to go to the Atlantic Coast Conference," DeFilippo said. "If the Big East has problems with me, let them take it out on me."

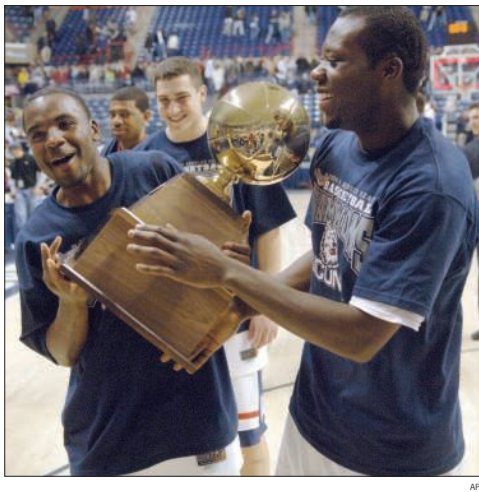
Big East officials denied that they were out to get Boston College, noting that they were only in Storrs, Conn., to honor UConn's Jim Calhoun and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, who each picked up his 700th victory. UConn officials asked them to bring the trophy in case the Huskies won.

"We have never presented a trophy at an away venue," Big East spokesman John Paquette said Monday.

Meanwhile, DeFilippo has gotten over the slight — or at least decided to accept it. He declined requests for comment on Monday.

"There was some disappointment about the trophy situation, but today the mood at BC is all about happiness," spokesman Chris Cameron said. "We're Big East champions with a No. 1 seed in the tournament and we're ranked seventh in the country. So life is good at Boston College."

Nothing motivates coaches and athletes more than disrespect — even Bill Belichick felt the need to play the card while the Patriots were on their way to a third Super Bowl victory in four years.



Connecticut's Antonio Kellogg, left and Denham Brown, right, walk off the court with the Big East trophy after defeating Syracuse 88-70 on Saturday. Boston College, which is leaving for the ACC after this year, wasn't awarded a trophy after earning a share of the title later Saturday.

"Fuel to the fire," said Craig Smith, one of two BC players selected to the all-Big East team on Monday.

Boston College was scheduled to leave on Tuesday for New York, where they'll get their trophy at a banquet. The tournament starts Wednesday, with BC getting a bye until Thursday as a No. 1 seed; the Eagles will play West Virginia or Providence.

"It bothers us and motivates us," Jared Dudley, the other all-Big East selection, said of the trophy flap, erybody's against us.

"We know they don't want us to win the

"We're Big East champions with a No. 1 seed in the tournament, and we're ranked seventh in the country. So life is good at Boston College."

Chris Cameron
BC spokesman

"We do think ev-

erybody's against us."

"They can't play that one," Skinner said.

championship in our last year, but that's what we're going to do."

Skinner said he understands the rule about trophy presentations at away games, and he thinks the controversy could have been avoided if someone had told BC beforehand.

But he'll take a pass on using it to fire up his team. "That's not the most important thing," he said. "I'd like to believe that just the fact that you're playing for the Big East championship is enough motivation."

And another trophy will be presented on Saturday night.

"They can't play that one," Skinner said.

Langford might miss tournament

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas guard Keith Langford, the Jayhawks' second-leading scorer this season, was on crutches Monday and might miss this weekend's Big 12 tournament, coach Bill Self said Monday.

The injury to Langford's left ankle, which he hurt Sunday in the Jayhawks' loss to Missouri, is not as severe as first thought, Self said. But the loss dropped Kansas to No. 9 in the latest AP poll and might have cost the Jayhawks a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

"We picked a bad time to get injured when Keith went out yesterday to have guys not play well," Self said on the Big 12 coaches' weekly conference call with reporters. "We need for somebody to step up and be players like they are."

Langford, a senior who averages more than 15 points, had already scored five when he injured his left ankle three minutes into the game. The Jayhawks went on to lose 72-68 and drop into a first-place tie for the regular-season title with Oklahoma.

Missouri's upset victory kept Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson tossing and turning all night with excitement. Tied with Kansas at 12-4, the Sooners captured a share of the conference title for the first since 1989. But because of their regular-season win over the Jayhawks, they are the top seed in the Big 12 tournament.

College scoreboard

All-ACC

First team

J.J. Redick, Duke; Chris Paul, Wake Forest; Sean May, North Carolina; J.J. Barea, Texas Tech; Raymond Felton, North Carolina.

Second team

Guillermo Diaz, Miami; Julius Hodge, N.C. State; Eric Williams, Wake Forest; Jarron Jackson, Georgia Tech; Justin Gray, Wake Forest.

Third team

Rashad McCants, North Carolina; Shamford Ford, Clemson; Nick Carter-Medley, Maryland; David Kidd, Wake Forest; Jared Williams, North Carolina.

All-Big 12

First team

Wayne Simien, Kansas; Roy Graham, Oklahoma; John Lucas, Oklahoma State; James White, Texas Tech; Antoine Wright, Texas A&M.

Second team

Taj Jar, Oklahoma; Curtis Stinson, Iowa State; Aaron Miles, Texas; Jeremiah Massey, Kansas State; Keith Langford, Kansas.

Third team

Aaron Bruce, Baylor; Daniel Gibson, Texas; Linas Kleiza, Missouri; Kevin Boskoff, Oklahoma; Villanov, Texas Tech.

All-Big East

First team

Hakim Warrick, Syracuse; Ryan Gomes, Providence; Grant Carter, North Carolina; Jared Dudley, Boston College; Chevon Troutman, Pittsburgh; Ryan McGlasson, Syracuse.

Second team

Jim Boone, Connecticut; Charlie Villanueva, Connecticut; Allan Ray, Villanova; Curtis Jampter, Villanova; Texas Tech.

Third team

Marcus Williams, Connecticut; Brandon Bowman, Oakland; Travis Thomas, Wake Forest; Darryl Hill, St. John's; Randy Foye, Villanova.

All-Conference USA

First team

Travis Delap, Marquette; Francisco Garcia, Houston; Grant Carter, North Carolina; Eddie Basden, Charlotte; Quontrell Roney, DePaul.

Second team

Jason Maxwell, Colorado; Andre Owens, Houston; Terrence Leather, South Florida; Eric Harris, Memphis.

Third team

Carmichael, Cincinnati; Corey Santee, TCU; Darryl Hill, St. John's; Randy Foye, Villanova; DePaul; Tajuan Dean, Louisville.

Wake suspends Paul for ACC tournament game

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Wake Forest star Chris Paul was suspended by the school for one game Monday for hitting North Carolina State's Julius Hodge in the groin during a game.

Paul, a sophomore point guard, will miss Friday's Atlantic Coast Conference tournament quarterfinal, the school said Monday. The Demon Deacons, second seed, will play the winner of Thursday's Florida State-N.C. State game.

Paul will be allowed to practice Tuesday and could return to the lineup Saturday if Wake Forest

advances to the tournament semifinals.

Athletic director Ron Wellman said the school consulted ACC Commissioner John Swofford before announcing the suspension.

Paul apologized to Hodge, N.C. State's fans, his teammates and Wake Forest's fans.

"Sunday night was emotional for me for many reasons, and I let my emotions get the best of me," Paul said. "However, that is no excuse for my actions, and I fully accept and agree with my suspension."

Paul is averaging 14.9 points and 6.6 assists and has been one of the stars of the No. 3 Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3 ACC).

Hodge was not expected to comment Monday on Paul's suspension, N.C. State spokeswoman Annabelle Vaughan said.

Paul's blow below 12-48 left in the first half set the tone for the game in Raleigh, which ended when he hit a runner just before the buzzer for a 55-53 win.

On the replay, Paul was behind Hodge as the lanky senior was battling for position to rebound a missed three-pointer by Iliyan Evrimov. After Cedric Simmons got the rebound, Paul reached around from Hodge's right side and hit him in the groin. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the year, crumpled to the court.

With Hodge laying on the

ground, his older brother, Steve, walked onto the court to see if Julius was OK — and to yell toward Wake Forest's bench and the referees. After he left the court, Steve Hodge was escorted from the area.

Once Julius Hodge got up, he yelled and gestured toward Paul and the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way to the bench.

After the game, Paul said the two simply became entangled. "I don't believe I popped him," Paul said. "It was just the heat of the game. I've got too much respect for him to try to pop him on senior night."

When told that replays showed him hitting Hodge, Paul responded, "I haven't seen the replay."



Creighton's Tyler McKinney hoists the Missouri Valley Champs sign after his team beat Southwest Missouri State in the tournament final.

Creighton is in; MVC awaits more berths

By R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Creighton leaned heavily on its bench, and the usual barrage of three-pointers, to win its fifth Missouri Valley Conference tournament in seven years.

Reserves Dane Watts and Jimmy Motz combined for half of the school's 12 three-pointers, and the Bluejays pulled away late for a 75-57 victory over Southwest Missouri State in the championship game Monday night.

"Motz and Watts really delivered for us," coach Dana Altman said. "It's an incredible feeling."

Motz was 4-for-7 from three-point range and scored 12 points for Creighton (23-10), which lost twice in the regular season to Southwest Missouri. Watts was 2-for-4 from three-point range and had 14 points.

"I wasn't scared," Watts said. "I had to step up for my teammates."

Together, they helped Creighton, which averages 8.5 three-pointers, overcome overall 43 percent shooting and an off game from leading scorer Nate Funk to earn a sixth trip in seven seasons to the NCAA tournament. Johnny Mathies also had 14 points for the winners.

"Just providing the spark, I guess, has been kind of my role all year," Motz said. "The main thing is 10 guys found a way to get it done in three days, and we can relax this week and find out where we're going to be playing." Deke Thompson had 14 points and Anthony Shavies 10 for Southwest Missouri (18-12), which also lost the tournament championship game last year and was shut out of the postseason. Southwest Missouri has been in the title game five times in the last eight seasons, but hasn't won since 1992.

Coach Barry Hinson said his team will get an NIT bid this season.

"I'm actually looking forward to more basketball this season," forward Tamar Macin said. "I mean, postseason is postseason."

Conference commissioner Doug Elgin was optimistic the Valley would receive three NCAA bids for the first time since 1999, with regular-season champion Southern Illinois, Wichita State and Northern Iowa also in the running. The Valley is ranked eighth in the RPI.

Southwest Missouri upset Southern Illinois in the semifinals, rallying from a 23-point second-half deficit.

"I feel pretty good about three teams," Elgin said. "This has been a groundbreaking year for us. I even think four teams is possible. The basketball community should respect our league."

"It's definitely a relief."

"Well, it'll definitely make the week go better," Altman said. "It's definitely a relief."

Creighton has a season total of 285 three-pointers, second most in Valley history, and was 12-for-25 in the title game. That helped the Bluejays end a four-game losing streak against the Bears despite only eight points from Funk, 10 below his average, on 3-for-12 shooting.

"He made a lot of opportunities for his teammates because they paid so much attention to him, but he didn't shoot it good," Altman said. "We were very fortunate that Jimmy picked up the three-point shooting, and Dane and other guys stepped up."

The game seemed set for a tense finish when Macin made a three-point play with 7:24 to go to cut Southwest Missouri's deficit to 52-50. But consecutive three-pointers by Tyler McKinney and Motz, only 53 seconds apart put Creighton ahead 60-50 with four minutes left.

"You're like 'Wow!'" Hinson said. "Just couldn't stop the bleeding. I would have liked for the ending chapter of this deal to be different."

Loughton takes over in OT, leads Monarchs to NCAAAs

By HANK KURZ JR.

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Old Dominion wanted to take the "11" out of its chances for making the NCAA tournament. Alex Loughton made it happen.

The Colonial Athletic Association player of the year took control of the game when the Monarchs needed him to Monday night, leading Old Dominion to a 73-66 victory against Virginia Commonwealth in overtime of the conference championship, and automatically into the field of 65.

The 6-foot-9 forward from Australia scored six of his 28 points in overtime, and the top-seeded Monarchs were clutch in the stretch, making their final 12 free throws to withstand the Rams' last-gasp comeback.

"I thought tonight was my night, and I was going to sort of outsmart and out-tough the opposition," Loughton said after making 12 of 19 shots and grabbing 11 rebounds. "I really thought I found my niche tonight."

The Monarchs (28-5) might have been able to lose and still get in, but didn't relish waiting around until Selection Sunday to find out.

"We wanted to take care of our business ourselves," said guard Drew Williamson, who played 91 minutes in the tournament without a turnover.

But it was Loughton, most of all, who made it so.

He scored on a drive with 52 seconds left in regulation, was fouled and made the tying free throw, Old Dominion's only points in the last five minutes of regulation. Then he took charge once overtime began.

"When it came time to make a play, it had to be made," he said.

Once in the extra session, Loughton scored inside, hit from about 17 feet and made two free throws, giving the Monarchs a 61-57 lead.

They sealed it at the line, making 12 straight shots to clinch their first NCAA berth since 1977, when VCU coach Jeff Capel's father took them there.

"I just can't say enough about how strong of a will our kids had to hang in there when everything was going right for the other team, and give ourselves a chance in regulation," Monarchs coach Blaine Taylor said.

"We had no answer for Loughton," Capel said. "He's a real, real good player — borderline great — and I don't throw that word around much."

The Rams (19-12) cut a 69-63 deficit in half on B.A. Walker's three-pointer with 1:59 seconds left, but Williamson hit a pair of free throws with 12 seconds to play and the Monarchs were finally tournament bound.

Kiah Thomas scored 14 and Isaiah Hunter 13 for Old Dominion.

Jesse Pellot-Rosa led the Rams with 15 points, Walker had 14 and Nick George and Michael Doles each had 11, though both shot poorly.



Old Dominion's Alex Loughton celebrates after his MVP performance earned the Monarchs the Colonial Athletic Association title and an NCAA tournament bid.

"It was hard to get open looks, and when we did get them, we didn't knock them down," said Doles, a senior who came in averaging 15 points, but shot just 6-for-23 in the semifinals and championship.

The Rams, seeded second in the tournament, joined semifinals losers North Carolina-Wilmington and Hofstra in hoping for bids to the NIT.

"Hopefully we have at least one more game left," Capel said.

Men's automatic tournament bids

Central Florida, Atlantic Sun Conference
Chattanooga, Southern Conference
Creighton, Missouri Valley Conference
Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference
Gonzaga, West Coast Conference
Niagara, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Old Dominion, Colonial Athletic Association
Pennsylvania, Ivy League
Winthrop, Big South Conference

Mendez ends Niagara's 35-year wait

By JOHN WAWROW

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Juan Mendez can finally breathe ease. The weight of Niagara's 34-year NCAA tournament drought is finally over.

Starting with a massive dunk, the senior forward hit 10 of his first 12 shots and finished with 27 points in leading the Purple Eagles to an 81-59 win over Rider in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship on Monday night.

The win clinched Niagara's second NCAA tournament berth, and

first since 1970 when the Calvin Murphy-led Purple Eagles reached the second round. It also ended a string of frustrating close calls for a program that had lost two MAAC championship games in the last three years.

"It's huge," Mendez said. "People have been waiting 35 years for this. And we finally got it done."

"We finally did it," added senior point guard Alvin Cruz. It was extra special for Cruz to win with Mendez, teammates recruited together five years ago out of Florida Air Academy.

"He was finishing everything,

he was being a leader," Cruz said. "He showed he was the best player in this conference tonight."

Lorenzo Miles had 16 points, while David Brooks scored 12 and added nine assists for Niagara (20-9), which lost 62-61 to Manhattan in last year's final. Mendez added 13 rebounds to be named the tournament's MVP.

A largely partisan Purple Eagles crowd — Niagara is located about 20 minutes from Buffalo — stormed the court as the final buzzer sounded. It took officials almost 15 minutes to clear the court to present Niagara with its trophy.

After 34 years, the wait was worth it.

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defensive end Okefor,
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Gonzaga silences critics

Zags capture 6th WCC title in 7 seasons

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — This season started with talk that Gonzaga might no longer be the best team in the West Coast Conference.

It ended with the Zags on top for the sixth time in seven years. Adam Morrison scored 30 points and keyed a big second-half run to lead No. 11 Gonzaga to an 80-67 victory over Saint Mary's on Monday night in a meeting of the conference's top two teams.

"Obviously being how young we are, over the summer we heard a lot of whispers about us finishing second or fourth in this league, and it kind of put a little chip on our shoulders," said Morrison, the tournament MVP. "We read the Web sites. We heard what people were saying around town."

Ronny Turiaf added 18 points and 14 rebounds as the Zags (25-4) earned a seventh straight NCAA tournament bid with their 12th consecutive victory. Gonzaga beat the second-seeded Gaels in the title game for the second straight season.

Daniel Kickert scored 27 points with a career-high seven three-pointers, and Paul Marigney had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Saint Mary's (25-8), which still has a chance to earn the school's first NCAA tournament bid since 1997.

"I would have to question the process if we're out," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "We played in a good conference. We lost to a good team. I think we've done all we could do other than win tonight."

Morrison scored the Zags' first seven points after halftime, including a three-point play that started a 15-3 run. He threw his arm into the air to celebrate in the final minute and called for Gonzaga's many fans to rise to their feet.

"Adam's a big-time player," Zags coach Mark Few said. "The bigger the moment, the better he is. He is the reason we're run off as many straight as we have. He's defending and he's making everybody better on both ends."

Turiaf, who had four second-half blocks, responded with a big night after a poor performance in Gonzaga's 90-74 semifinal win over San Diego on Sunday.

Derek Raivio added 16 points to help Gonzaga snap the Gaels' five-game winning streak.



Gonzaga's Ronny Turiaf, left, is defended by Saint Mary's Frederic Adjiwanou in the second half of the West Coast Conference tournament championship game in Santa Clara, Calif., on Monday.

Of all the talented Gonzaga teams during the program's recent run, some say this could potentially be the best one.

After Kickert's three with 16:20 left pulled the Gaels to 41-40, Gonzaga scored 10 straight points and held the Gaels to one field goal in 10 minutes. Marigney scored five straight to pull Saint Mary's to 53-47 with 8:01 to go, but the Gaels couldn't get closer.

The Bulldogs, who played in the tournament championship game for the eighth straight year,

haven't lost since a 73-70 defeat at San Francisco on Jan. 20.

Gonzaga's red-clad fans chanted "This is our house!" before the game, a reminder that the Zags have won eight straight in the Leavey Center, Santa Clara's home arena.

Most of the sellout crowd was in red actually, one of the colors for both teams.

Kickert made five first-half points.

E.J. Rowland had six of his nine assists in the first half, but

Saint Mary's started the second half 2-for-13, missed four crucial free throws and was sloppy with the ball. The Gaels committed three shot-clock violations and a half-court violation.

"We still had some good looks in the second half," Rowland said. "They just didn't fall our way."

The WCC has sent two teams to the tournament only five times in the last 15 years, but the Gaels are hoping their 25 wins will be the difference for the selection committee next Sunday.



Old Dominion locks up NCAA berth with CAA tournament title

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Giambi responds to Sox fans' taunts with first homer of spring

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